

Window on Jordan

Inside a service taxi, looking out

By John Fenn

Star Staff Writer

BEING WITHOUT a car in Jordan does not pose a major problem, as there are many alternative forms of transport; one dear to my heart is the service taxi.

The concept of a shared taxi, following a set route around town, is a novel one for this native Englishman, but my journeys everyday always bring new discoveries and observations into life in Jordan.

Take the different styles of driving, for instance. If, on entering the service, you see nothing but a figure underneath a baseball cap, reclined horizontally—so much so that you wonder if he is awake—with one arm out the window, then you know you have the young,

vigorous "racing driver." This driver normally drives an old Mercedes—but with wide tyres and as many new car accessories as possible. On seeing this, you should be prepared for a helter-skelter ride, which takes you through a few time zones, one or two G-Force thrusts, several illusion tricks (i.e. squeezing into gaps unseen by the average homo sapiens), and the odd near death experience.

On leaving the taxi at the end of the journey, your life is back into perspective—the sound of the birds singing and the warmth of the sun on your back makes you appreciate being alive.

Another type is the passionate, music loving driver (dare I say, "habibi driver"), and you will find these

normally in a brand new Subaru or Toyota, with a sound system imported from Germany. Your ride will be a smooth one, and on leaving the service, it is guaranteed that you will be humming the last track you heard. Unfortunately, you cannot hear yourself humming, because his volume control went up to 11 (as opposed to the standard 10), and your eardrums will have burst. Needless to say, you will not be able to hear the birds singing, but you should still be able to feel the sun on your back.

The last kind of driver is the experienced, "old-timer" variety. While you were still just a glint in your father's

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The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Le Jourdain

s'absentra cette semaine, rendez-vous la semaine prochaine!

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AMMAN, 29 OCT. — 4 NOV. 1998, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 21, 350 FILS

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Palestinians in refugee camps speak out on Wye accord

By Ittissam Awadat

Star Staff Writer

SITTING OUTSIDE his house on the side-walk and looking at every pedestrian passing by is Abu Thaeir. Like many other Palestinians, he still keeps his *koshan*, (title deeds), believing that one day he or his sons will return to their land in the future Palestinian state. The 70-year-old is one of the Palestinians who still believes that he will return to the old olive tree where he was raised, but the dream seems far-off.

Palestinians in Al Hussein, Wihdat and Baqa' camps—the main refugee camps in Amman—watched optimistically the signing ceremony between the Israelis and Palestinians in Washington. Unfortunately, reading the articles of the Wye Plantation agreement the next day in the newspapers wiped the smiles off their faces.

The second came after 19 long months of deadlock between Palestinians and Israelis, which made many believe that the peace process had faded away. The Wye Plantation accord turned out to be the talk of town not only in Jordan but around the world.

In refugee camps, a state of pessimism took hold among people who saw the deal as just another concession by the Palestinian side, and one that would likely incite a civil war amongst the different Palestinian factions.

"The agreement only benefits Clinton, by diverting attention away from his scandals, and is a tool for Netanyahu to use the Palestinians to fight terrorism," said Dr Adel Al Qanneh, head of the Camp's Affairs Committee (ICAC) in Wihdat.

"The Palestinian delegation had to accept what they were offered or get nothing in return. They also would have been accused of blocking the peace process," Qanneh added.

"They were pressured to accept an Israeli withdrawal of only 10 percent, the remaining percentages (3.1) will stay under Israeli control as 'nature reserves,'" he told *The Star*.

"The process will be painful, since every inch of withdrawal will need the approval of the Israeli Knesset," Qanneh added.

But according to Qanneh the Palestinians are in store for more suffering, since the 10 percent withdrawal would need 19 months to implement. "So you can imagine that negotiations for the final stage will take forever," he pointed out incredulously.

The Wye Plantation demands many gestures of goodwill. The onus of good intention has to lie with the Palestinian Authority, for it is they who have to convince the Israelis that they are serious about fighting terrorism.

Palestinians believe that the term "terrorism" according to the Israelis and Americans includes Islamic activists in particular, and nationalists in general.

"To accept such an agreement means to divide Palestinians into two groups: those who are committed to peace,

and those who are not and need to be removed by force," Qanneh explained.

Qanneh and others in the camp are dismayed. One warned that a mass explosion could erupt in the Occupied Territories where Palestinians could turn against each other. "The Jews will sit on the sidewalk, and watch," Qanneh added.

The majority of residents in the Wihdat camp are not optimistic either. Despite the hardship of earning a living, they have not forgotten about returning back to Palestine.

"We have no alternative to peace. However, I believe no peace will be achieved in our region since our dispute with the Israelis is based on religious differences and not geographic ones," said Dr Adnan Al Akhras, who has lived in the camp for 30 years, recently returned from another Arab country to open a clinic in the camp.

"I don't believe we will reach an acceptable and just

peace, but it is the only path to take at present," said Dr Akhras. However he warned that, "An explosion will happen soon, since these agreements are just serving as a local anesthetic."

However, many of the elderly Palestinians who live in the camp (population of 120,000), refuse to accept all the political and diplomatic assurances. One question lingers in the back of all their minds. "Tell us when we can go back to our homeland, and then we will believe in something called the peace process! Will we see our orange groves again?"

People in the Baqa' camp share the same pessimism. "It's a security deal to guarantee the protection of Israel by the Palestinian forces," said Sheikh Abdel Haleem, a respected businessman who has lived in the camp since the 1948 war.

"We will not allow Israelis to transfer our struggle into our homes. Israel tried that in

the past, but our national unity is very tight," Haleem continued.

"The declared withdrawal is merely ink on paper, since Israel has the right to chase what they term 'Palestinian terrorists' in the areas they are withdrawing from," Haleem, a member of the Anti Normalization Committee at the camp told *The Star*.

"The principle that was implemented at Wye was 'take it or leave it' said Hassan Abu Dbaa. "I believe that the outburst will not be limited to the West Bank, but will spread to the surrounding areas," Dbaa, a former member in Abu Jihad's group—a PLO leader who was assassinated in Tunisia—told *The Star*.

Palestinians say that their fears are not groundless, since Netanyahu has delayed a cabinet decision on the new peace deal until Palestinians submit a detailed plan to fight terrorism.

King's wisdom moves the peace process ahead

AMMAN (Star)—The personal efforts of His Majesty King Hussein in the recent Wye Plantation peace talks have been lauded by leaders from around the world. The fact that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams agreed to sign an accord, when there were obvious differences still at hand, has been credited to the sincere intervention of King Hussein.



An agreement was concluded last week, after a marathon nine-day session of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. During last Friday's signing ceremony in the White House, both the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed deep appreciation for the part played by the King, and said that his efforts were an

inspiring example of courage and humanity. The US President, Bill Clinton, also joined in the flood of accolades, stressing that the King's courage and wisdom, along with his stern instructions for peace, were at the heart of the agreement.

Since the signing agreement, the King has telephoned Mr Clinton, and thanked him personally for his valued efforts during the talks. In turn, the President reiterated the constructive role that His Majesty has continued to play in ensuring that the region has a comprehensive and just peace; one that provides security and stability for all.

In a statement to Radio Jordan on Monday, the Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Nabeel Shaath, said that the King had intervened personally when it came to releasing the Palestinian prisoners. "Although His Majesty was undergoing medical treatment at the time in the United States, he still managed to attend the peace meetings, and to play a major role in it's conclusion," Mr Shaath confirmed.

In addition, most Arab leaders in the region have also expressed their appreciation to the King. The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, reassured his nation of

the King's health, and stressed his support for the Palestinian National Authority, and the Palestinian's legitimate claim for their full rights.

Worldwide reaction to the Jordanian leader in the peace negotiations has also been forthcoming. Denmark paid tribute to the King's "diligent efforts to secure stability and security for all people in the region." The Danish Foreign Minister, Niels Helveg Petersen, said that "Jordan was, and always will be, a shining example in the Middle East for the pursuit of prosperity, freedom and democracy." Mr Petersen will be the first foreign minister from the west to visit the Middle East, early next month, since the signing of the agreement.

Further east, the Chinese government highlighted the crucial role played by King Hussein, and claimed that the invitation itself—from the US, Palestinian and Israeli delegations to contribute in the talks—showed the deep respect with which the world views King Hussein.

Meanwhile, French President Jacques Chirac personally phoned King Hussein to inquire about His Majesty's health, and to express his appreciation of his role in the peace process.

However, people in similar financial and political circumstances, like those in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria are famous for their jolly sense of humor.

Mrs Al Alami associates such a phenomenon to the nature of the social environment of such countries. "The psychology of the masses

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The Wye Plantation agreement Signed but not complete

By Ghassan Jaha and agencies

THE CEREMONIOUS signing last week of the Wye Plantation accord between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ended more than 19 months of stagnation in the peace track.

The agreement means that for the first time since January 1997 the Palestinians will assume control over another piece of West Bank land, in exchange for a concrete plan to curb anti-Israeli violence. But, the Israelis must also adhere to the accord.

The US-brokered accord ran into its first obstacle when Netanyahu canceled a cabinet vote on the agreement, which was to take place today, 29 October. Netanyahu says the Palestinians will not hold their end of the bargain.

But according to the accord, the Palestinians do not have to submit their security plan until Monday, 2 November, when it is due to take effect. Israeli officials insisted that they are confident that the Palestinians

would be unable to comply with this deadline. By last Wednesday night, it was not clear whether the dispute would delay the implementation of the 12-week long Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

The noise generated by the Israeli opposition to the pact, almost drowned the latest spasm of violence that took place on Monday, when a Jewish settler was shot dead in Hebron. Hours afterwards, a revenge murder of an elderly Palestinian man occurred near Nablus. The murdered, 29-year-old Israeli was a security guard at an electricity station in the city, and was shot at close range in the chest.

A few hours later, an anonymous caller telephoned the Israeli police to say that he had killed a 70-year-old Palestinian man in revenge.

Netanyahu faces growing opposition from settlers. In demonstrations, they denounced Netanyahu, coinciding ominously with the third anniversary (4 November) of the assassination of late Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin. Israel's spiritual leaders, of all religious parties, have said that it is forbidden to hand over integral parts of what they call "the biblical land of Israel."

However, general Palestinian opinion is in favor of the pact. But Arafat—returning to Gaza from an Arab tour—faces problems of his own, after several hundred activists of Fatah marched in Ramallah Monday. The march followed a bizarre sequence of events started when the security forces raided Fatah's Ramallah headquarters, seizing files and papers. In the incident, a young Fatah activist was killed in an exchange of gunfire.

Palestinian Minister of Planning, Nabeel Shaath, gave his approval to the agreement. He said that the freeing of most of the 800 Palestinian detainees, the final approval for the Gaza air and sea ports, and the formation of safe passages between the West Bank and Gaza strip are all important elements in the process of establishing Palestinian sovereignty.

However, the picture is not all rosy.

Palestinian radicals and the opposition have rejected the deal, claiming that there can be no peace under the current circumstances. George Habash (leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), and Nayeef Hawatmeh (the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) called on Palestinians to turn down "the disgraceful deal."

Netanyahu has spent most of the week trying to assuage his fracturing coalition government, most of whom are opposed to the peace deal. Netanyahu insisted that the pact is the best possible deal under current circumstances. He also assured them that Jewish settlements will continue to expand in the West Bank, despite fierce Palestinian opposition.

These words have cost Netanyahu dearly, as the US State Department sent a direct warning to both Israelis and Palestinians not to carry out any unilateral actions.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government has started its preparations to implement

Smiling: A dying language in Jordan

By Rasheed Al Roussan

Special to The Star

"TO THE right please, keep still. Ok smile." Photographers go through this monotonous routine every day. They seat you on a chair, adjust your head and shoulders, and all you have to do is smile. The moment you get out into the streets, you find people staring at you, wondering what on earth are you smiling at?

Afterwards, they will probably interpret your unusual facial gestures as insanity!

Smiling has always been the key to one's body language. Social affairs, business deals, and friendships can sometimes be determined by a single smile, which can change your life forever.

The psychological aspects of smiling are today one of the essential things. "Laughter is a human instinct. However, it is used as a defense mechanism to hide one's feelings from others," Mrs Dalal Al

Alami, who teaches psychology at the Applied Sciences University explains. She adds that societies in the Arab world tend to laugh more often than other western cultures. People under political and economic hardships are exposed to psychological problems, as a result of repression and suppression. "I think that in the ideology of family affairs, we are still practicing authoritarianism over our children, especially teenagers. As a result, exaggerated laughter may be their only way to take the load off their shoulders."

But there is a problem. Saying cheese is not generally recognized as a characteristic among people in Jordan. Try to look around while you're stopping at a bus station or a traffic light in the morning. You will be lucky to find one or two faces smiling!

Nevertheless, Dr Abed Al Qader Ramzi, a lecturer in social sciences at the Applied Sciences University, disagrees. "We have a won-

derful sense of humor, and we use it to interact with one another. On the other hand, western societies acquire the art of smiling as a social code, and their sense of humor lacks credibility and honesty," Ramzi says.

Although he has a point, many feel skeptical.

"Smiling is rare in Jordan. There is a wave of depression occupying people's minds," explains Najwan Al Khateeb, a university student. She says that unemployment is one of the main reasons behind "our fears and worries for future prospects."

But unemployment is related to another phenomenon: that of the shame culture. Locals who work in entertainment centers aren't willing to smile at you at all. They are bogged down in their work, and think that what they do is socially inferior. They translate their "bored expressions" onto the customer.

These factors are interwoven with the issue of social class. Ironically enough, you may find many with poor incomes smiling all the time.

Dr Ramzi believes that the shame culture

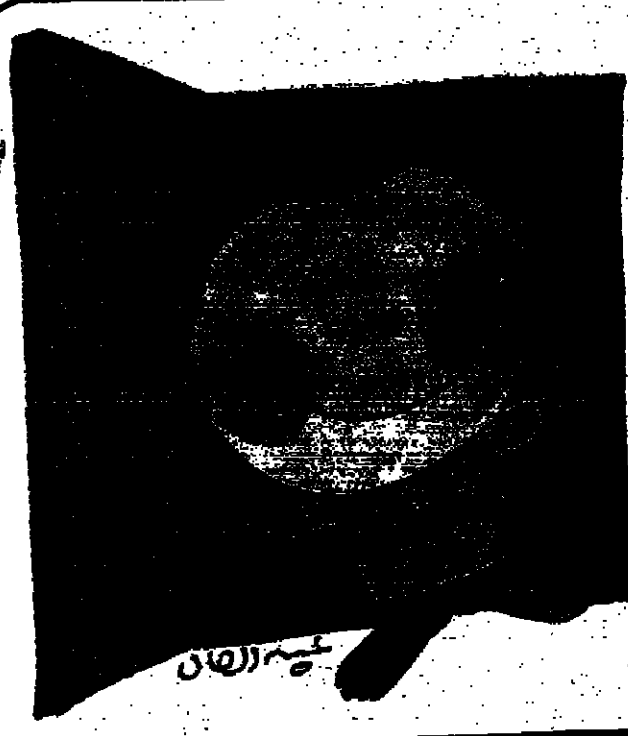
and social class don't have a direct impact on our sense of humor. "Smiling is an intrinsic habit in our culture. High class individuals are inclined to express such gestures in a high brow way, more than those belonging to other classes," he states, pointing out that the financial status does affect our psychology, but what makes us differ from western societies is our social and religious solidarity.

Furthermore, university students like Ameen Al Sa'adi and Mohammed Al Awadi agree that materialism plays a vital role in our emotional well-being. "These are basic needs for every society. If money can't serve our needs, smiling would be the last thing on our mind," Al Sa'adi explains.

However, people in similar financial and political circumstances, like those in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria are famous for their jolly sense of humor.

Mrs Al Alami associates such a phenomenon to the nature of the social environment of such countries. "The psychology of the masses

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World REPORT

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BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUNE 1998 AND 1997

Assets	1998 US\$ ('000)	1997 US\$ ('000)	Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	1998 US\$ ('000)	1997 US\$ ('000)
Cash and due from banks	5 873 007	5 882 535	Customer deposits	11 381 248	10 571 772
Government and trading securities	1 140 718	953 624	Bank deposits	3 180 651	3 004 504
Loans and advances, net	7 789 448	7 087 599	Other liabilities	1 042 473	953 143
Long-term investments, net	1 763 958	1 523 818	Total Liabilities	15 604 372	14 529 419
Fixed assets, net	142 486	108 950	Capital	146 937	84 897
Other assets	452 882	359 591	Statutory reserve	79 532	78 766
Total Assets	17 162 499	15 916 117	Voluntary reserve	196 285	218 836
Customers' liability on guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	5 749 088	5 203 701	General reserve	853 487	738 626
Total	22 911 587	21 119 818	Reserves with associated companies	343 378	310 944
			Retained earnings	2 220	483
			Total	1 621 839	1 432 552
			Translation adjustments	(63 712)	(45 854)
			Total shareholders' equity	1 558 127	1 386 698
			Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	17 162 499	15 916 117
			Guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	5 749 088	5 203 701
			Total	22 911 587	21 119 818

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1998 and 30 June 1997 was included in "Other Liabilities"

Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 1998 and 1997

	1998 US\$ ('000)	1997 US\$ ('000)
Net interest and commission	260 140	230 997
Plus : Foreign exchange trading	20 905	14 841
Other income	24 545	16 803
	305 590	262 641
Less : General and administrative expenses	142 588	127 470
Net income before tax	163 002	135 171
Income tax	37 286	26 606
Net income	125 716	108 565

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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Paying tribute

In a big funeral ceremony members of the Jordanian army buried, Tuesday, four Jordanian soldiers who were killed in Jerusalem in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The ceremony began by Jordanian soldiers carrying the coffins of the four martyrs, draped in Jordanian flags, and headed to the Nabu Senuel Mosque. The cortege included the Jordanian Ambassador in Tel Aviv and the Israeli Ambassador in Amman and the martyrs' families. The imam of the mosque began with a speech expressing appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan. The two flags were then given to the Al Shoubi and Al Baghdadi families, the other two flags were handed over to 10th Hashemite Battalion under the leadership of Major General Mohamed Al Melkawi. Jamal Al Baghdadi, one of the relatives of the deceased soldiers said we are very proud of our son who paid his life for what he believed in. The Jordanian soldiers were found after excavations carried out in Jerusalem. It is believed that about 750 soldiers died in the 1967 War.

A letter of affection to His Majesty

The Jordanian Society for Culture and World Peace have started preparing a letter of "love and loyalty" to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his birthday. The letter will contain congratulatory wishes from Jordanian citizens, as well as prayers for his speedy recovery and return home to his people.

The Society has already started collecting signatures—the letter is 250 meters long and 75 centimeters wide. Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein have already signed the letter. If you want to add your signature, you can do so by visiting the following locations where the letter will be on display: Thursday 29 October in Mafraq and the surrounding areas; Al Al Bayt University, Friday 30 October in Ajloun/Jerash and the surrounding areas; Saturday 31 October at Zerga and Al Hashimiyah University and Zerga Private University. On Sunday 1 November the letter will be in Ma'an/Aqaba and the surrounding areas; Monday 2 November in Al Karak, Tafleeh, and at Mu'atah University; Tuesday 3 November Amman/Madaba; Wednesday 4 November at Salt and the surrounding areas; Thursday 5 November, at the offices of the Jordanian Society for Culture and World Peace.

No sell out!

Thirty-eight deputies sent a memo to the Lower House Speaker protesting the government's decision to sell its shares in the Jordan Cement Company. The protest came after reports by experts, deputies and the JOC Executive Council, which said that the company doesn't need a partner. They say that if a partner is needed, then it should be Jordanian, not a foreign one. The memo suggested that the government should offer the shares to the employees of the company and to the ordinary citizens. Mr. Mahmud Al Hani, president of the General Union of Construction Workers called on the Prime Minister and the Parliament to intervene, and stop the sale of the government shares in the JOC to a foreign partner. He said the company was the first to get ISO 9002 and ISO 14000 certification. The employees threatened to stage a strike, but decided to postpone it for two weeks, to give the company a chance to retreat from its sell out position to foreign investors.

Murder trial

Saad Al Qashah, the student who is accused of killing 12 members of his family in Maq'at Hassan, surprised the Amman Criminal Court earlier this week when he said he pleaded not guilty to the murder charge.

In his statement to the court, he said that on the day of the murder—at about nine o'clock in the morning—four men and one woman claiming to be from the Census Dept., visited his house. He said they wanted information and started looking around the house, and asked him questions about a computer which his brother bought a month ago. "It was then that I suspected them, so I got the guns out," Said told the Court. He added, "When I came back, I found them fiddling with the computer, so I raised my gun and ordered them to move back. I tried to call my neighbor, but one of them hit my hand and forced me to sit in their car."

They gave me a drink of what I thought was water, but it knocked me out for two hours. After I woke up, I returned to the house with them, when they started behaving strangely. Said told the court that it was then that the men shot his mother and sister. He told the court that, "They controlled me, and I had no idea what they were doing to me. I didn't kill anyone. I can't even use a gun. They killed my family." His lawyer, Ali Al Talfeh, asked the court for his client be examined by a psychiatrist, but this request was refused. The case will resume again on 31 October.

Once again

Al Arab Al Yum is having another go. It wants to publish a Jordanian evening daily again. Al Massa, which is awaiting a licence by the Press and Publication Dept., will seek to bring something new to the Jordanian market. Its editor will be Bassem Saketia, who is a press veteran. He tried to publish an evening daily a couple of years ago, but it soon went bust. Let's hope he has better luck this time!

Smiling: A dying language in Jordan

Continued from page 1

has a deep effect on our sense of humor. It depends on the duration of any psychological status; if you visit a country full of people smiling at you, you will eventually adjust yourself to their codes and moralities," she remarks. When in Rome, do what the Romans do!

As well as these, the issue of gender affects the way we smile and what we smile about.

"As a woman, I have problems with being honest with others. Sometimes I fake my smiles in order to stop people from gossiping," explains Noor Al Masri.

Her colleagues Zina Koro and Najwan Al Khateeb agree. "There are many restrictions against us as women. We can't

laugh or smile at everything, especially in front of the guys," they say.

On the other hand, many men enjoy the liberty of laughing in front of everyone, on all subjects including taboo ones. Smiling is still governed by our own personal interpretations, which may lead to many misunderstandings. Does this ring a bell?

If a woman smiles to a man, he would probably think that she is in love with him or vice versa.

Our society is facing serious political and economic challenges for the next millennium. It is disturbing to see ourselves going down the gravity train of depression and pessimism. Sometimes you can wipe a tear with a smile, and if we can do that, we can do a lot more for the future.

Jordan-Yemeni relations at a high point

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stressed the importance of increasing cooperation between Jordan and Yemen, as well as enhancing coordination and joint action for the common good of the Arab nation.

During a meeting with the visiting Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani in Amman, Monday, the Regent underlined Jordan's keenness to develop ties with Yemen, and expressed appreciation of the spirit of cooperation which prevailed during the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee.

The Yemeni Premier conveyed greetings from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to His Majesty King Hussein, wishing him a speedy recovery. Al Iryani affirmed his country's willingness to promote ties with Jordan in the political, trade, economic and educational fields, and noted the importance of the two day meetings which were held in Amman.

The two sides also discussed development of the Middle East peace process, as well as other regional and international issues of common interest. The Yemeni Prime Minister expressed appreciation of the important role



played by Jordan in bringing about peace and stability in the region. He also praised His Majesty's role in the Wye Plantation talks, which led to the signing of an agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Both the Regent and the Yemeni Premier underlined the importance of building a comprehensive peace in the region; one that respects the rights of all parties and leads to the restoration of all Arab rights.

The talks also covered inter-Arab relations. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of activating joint Arab action and constructing inter-Arab relations, based on respect for each state.

The forgotten soldiers of the Palestinian Revolution

By Samaa Abu Sharar
Special to The Star

GLOOMY FACES, deformed bodies, wounded spirits—a superficial description of what were once the heroes of the Palestinian Revolution. They fought Israel from Lebanon, Jordan and the Occupied Territories. Today, around 2000 of them are in Jordan waiting for help from the Palestinian Authority, before they sink into a state of misery and neglect.

In a depressing building in Jabal Al Hussein, a black iron staircase leads you to a dim basement that houses the Palestinian Revolution Old Fighters Association (PROFA). A funny location to meet the old fedayeen (fighters), but this is where the association was established in 1993.

PROFA was set up to fight for the rights of these people which they say have been long ignored by the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Also, the association was created to allow these lost fighters to air out their complaints, especially their miserable living conditions.

In the last few years, the modest bureau of the association has become a refuge and a second home for these fedayeen. Mostly old and unable to work, they come to the bureau either to pass their endless and monotonous days or try desperately to solve their problems.

Between 30 to 40 arrive daily. They gather in the bureau drinking tea and smoking cigarettes, hoping their complaints would be solved, or to solicit a dinar or two to buy bread for their families. Some simply reminisce over their glorious past.

In the main hall decorated with photographs of Yasser Arafat and various Palestinian martyrs, the association's president and his deputy welcome members, and try to meet some of their demands.

In a bitter and depressing atmosphere, the two men listen to the problems of the old fighters. The first is Zaydan

Yaghmour, who lost his legs in 1969 at Umm Nakhleh in the Occupied Territories, and the second is Khader Abu Nijmeh, who claims to have shot the first bullet in 1965 which announced the launch of the Palestinian revolution.

Yaghmour says these fedayeen who fought Israel for more than 30 years suffer from three problems:

Firstly, they have not received their salaries (which range from JD 50 and JD 100 plus) for the last 18 months. "We built this revolution from scratch, but sometimes we feel like beggars, begging for five and 10 dinars," says Abu Jamal bitterly, an old fighter.

Speaking in a volcano-like voice in a gathering of his compatriots, he says, "This problem started with the signing of the Oslo Accord. Today we are unable to pay our rents and when we ask for our salaries, the Palestinian Authority fobs us off, saying they don't have any money because Israel has not paid its tax dues. Does that mean that if the negotiations is at a standstill between the Palestinians and Israel we will not be paid our salaries?" asks Abu Jamal incredulously.

Secondly, these old fighters are not medically insured despite the urgent need to treat their injuries due to years of combat.

"I desperately need to replace my artificial legs, but I do not have the money. I asked repeatedly for financial help from the Palestine Embassy in Amman, but received no answer," says Zaydan Yaghmour, president of the association.

Thirdly, they are not allowed to go back to the Occupied Territories because they have not yet acquired national numbers. A national number allows its holder to enter areas governed by the Palestinian Authority which in turn permits them to acquire a Palestinian identity card and later a Palestinian passport.

Getting hold of a national number has proved to be a complicated process, since the applicant has to be on good terms with the Palestinian Authority which submits the



Old soldiers await for a solution

application to the Israelis, who have the final say. The majority of these fighters believe that the foot-dragging is due to the fact of being viewed as the eternal enemies of Israel. "Everyone in Jordan receives their salaries, except for those who fought Israel at one time or another," claims one of the old fighters who refused to be identified.

Yaghmour says he sent several letters on behalf of his compatriots to President Yasser Arafat requesting national numbers, but he has received no answer as of yet. "I can not explain why we are not allowed to go back to Palestine. We are not asking the Palestinian Authority for money, cars, plans or positions, all we want is to die in our land," says Khader Abu Nijmeh, with tearful eyes.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan, Omar Al Khathib, admits that the situation is painful, but says this situation applies to all. The ambassador says there are fighters who have already entered Palestine and are residing there. However, he acknowledges the fact that the Israelis have stopped granting national numbers to ex-militants.

He tells The Star that the fighters have stopped receiving their salaries three months ago, and not 18 months as they claim. "We try our best at the Embassy to help these fighters when we have money,

but this does not happen all the time because of the bad financial situation everyone is going through," says Al Khathib.

In the meantime, from a building in Jabal Al Hussein, Zaydan Yaghmour and his compatriots continue to send letters to the Palestinian Authority, demanding their legitimate right to return and hoping that someone will finally respond to their numerous requests. In their last letter to the Palestinian Authority, members of the association stated that they now won't be able to send their children to school, because they simply don't have the money.

Wye Plantation in the press

The long awaited Wye Plantation agreement has finally been signed. The ceremony was attended by President Clinton and His Majesty King Hussein. His Majesty was given a warm welcome from President Clinton, who said that "the world is indebted to King Hussein, for his efforts in securing this agreement." Clinton added, "His Majesty is a great, wise and compassionate leader, who always puts the interest of world peace before anything else."

This week, Jordanian columnists focussed on His Majesty's courage, and offered their views on the Wye Plantation agreement.

Youssef Abdullah Mahmoud of Al Rai, commented on His Majesty's role in achieving peace. He said that His Majesty's credibility among world leaders is a result of his transparency. All parties involved in the peace agreement commended the King for his wisdom and humanitarianism, and said his efforts would always be appreciated in the modern world. However, Mahmoud was skeptical about Israel's attitude towards the agreement, for they continued to make obstacles hours before the signing ceremony. The columnist said that real peace depends on the credibility of all parties involved.

Oriab Al Rantawi in Ad Dustour, on the other hand, discussed the implications and possibilities of the Wye Plantation agreement. First and most important should be the ending of the concept of "Greater Israel." The Israeli right has joined the left in accepting the idea of sharing the "land of Israel" with the people who live inside the "Israeli territory." Secondly, Sharon's presence and his blessings for the agreement is a symbolic end to the project of a substitute home for Palestinians. Thirdly, it is only a matter of time before the final declaration of a Palestinian State, because the PNA will soon own 40 percent of the West Bank, as well as secure passages from the airport and Gaza port to the West Bank. Fourthly, there was a dramatic change in the American stance towards the Palestinians, with President Clinton agreeing to address the Palestinian National Council. Clinton also commended President Arafat on his role as a leader. As a result of this agreement, the Palestinian issue took two steps forward: the first step was the recognition of a Palestinian national state, which means the Palestinian entity will be able to deal with the international community on an equal footing. The second, is the recognition of the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle over the past 40 years, a change from Washington's previous view of a "terrorist state." The agreement was the result of a lot of effort from the Palestinians and the Israeli right. However, implementation may prove harder than expected, Al Rantawi points out. Jehad Al Momani in Ad Dustour is also skeptical about the Wye Plantation accord, for until now, nobody knows exactly what the parties have agreed on. Did they agree to continue negotiations, or to liquidate Hamas and Palestinian extremism, so that there will be no-one left to demand the return of Palestine? There appears to be many hidden secrets in the agreement's appendices. There was very little content in the speeches of the attending leaders. However, Yasser Arafat did say something about the status of Palestinian refugees. To our dismay though, he only talked about the Palestinians of Lebanon, and reassured them that one day they would return to their homeland. One wonders what the future holds for the other 4 million Palestinians who are scattered around the world. Was the peace agreement signed at their expense? Al Momani commented that the Palestinian negotiating team were no match for their Israeli counter-parts, especially since the Palestinian police force is working hard in hand with the Israelis.

Signed but not complete

Continued from page 1

ment the second stage of Israeli troop redeployment. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met with the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army, and briefed him on details and the necessary steps to be implemented, assuming approval is forthcoming from the Israeli Knesset. Experts have estimated that the cost of the redeployment will be \$2.5 million. It includes the construction of 10 ring roads and the evacuation of Israeli military camps. Political analysts say that Netanyahu's

government is expected to approve the peace deal, and the pact will sail through the Knesset, although some Jewish extremist parties would oppose and vote against the deal. The Israeli opposition Labor Party said earlier that it would support the current cabinet on the peace deal, but nothing else. The Knesset's Law and Constitution committee passed a bill last week to dissolve the parliament, and called for new elections early next year. Analysts say that the bill stands a good chance of winning a majority of the 120 member Knesset.

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Our Say...

Implementing Wye accords

THE WYE Mills agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis is already in trouble less than a week after the historic signing ceremony at the White House. Violence and clashes on both sides have taken their toll, and the Israeli Prime Minister is again sending signals that he might delay implementation of the redeployment agreement. In addition, Jewish radical groups and hardliners have intensified efforts to derail the accord, just as they have done on previous occasions. It is not yet clear if Netanyahu will decide to confront his hardline critics, or succumb—as before—to their pressure in spite of an overwhelming support for the deal among Israelis.

The optimism that surrounded last week's breakthrough has been short-lived and once again the region is finding itself face to face with political uncertainties. For Netanyahu, it is a question of appeasing the far right, holding on to power, and shifting the blame to the Palestinians.

For Arafat, the Wye agreement represents a decisive point in the life of the peace process, which has been stuck ever since the Likud-led government took over in Israel two years ago. Palestinians from all walks of life have come out against the agreement, accusing Arafat of giving away everything and receiving nothing. The security issue—Netanyahu's main demand at the Maryland talks—was eventually dealt with by extracting more concessions from the Palestinians. Topping these is the future of human rights and free expression in the areas under Arafat's rule.

The crux of the issue, which is land, has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Palestinian people. Still, ceding land to the Palestinians and allowing them to run their own lives independently from their occupiers are the two main achievements of the agreement. However, should Netanyahu find new ways to dither and postpone implementation, then the immediate loser will definitely be Arafat and the Palestinians.

The United States has committed itself, again, to backing the agreement and following on its implementation. While there will always be opposition to Wye—just as there is still opposition to Oslo and its off-springs on both side of the yawning divide—the real test to all of these agreements lies in honest and faithful implementation.

It would be ludicrous to expect the Palestinians to bear the brunt of Netanyahu's egregious policies. He has made pledges and he now has to honor them. President Clinton threw his weight behind the latest agreement after many months of wasted and fruitless effort. While the Wye agreements leave much to be desired for the Palestinians people, the moment of truth has come for Netanyahu to honor his pledges and take the side of peace.

Egyptian Foreign Minister in Amman

AMMAN (PETRA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa arrived in Amman on a two-day visit. He held talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral ties, as well as issues of common interest, foremost of which is the peace process.

Mr Musa conveyed a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, from Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak. Talks concentrated on Arab and regional issues.

The Egyptian minister earlier said that both countries are passing through a critical and important phase that requires more coordination and understanding.

In reply to a question on the Egyptian role in improving relations between Jordan and Syria, Mr Musa said that his country always works towards improving Arab unity, and that it will continue to do so in the future.

He said that the Wye Plantation agreement was a step in the right direction, so long as it leads to an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian lands. Jordan's Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Al Khateeb, who received Mr Musa upon his arrival, said that the visit comes within the continued consultations between the two countries.

Al Khateeb described the



agreement as a great achievement, and an important step on the path of a comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East. He also paid

tribute to His Majesty King Hussein, for the stirring efforts in bringing the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams together.

Will the Wye Plantation accord be implemented?



By Mohammed Sharif Jayousy

THE SIGNING of the Wye Plantation agreement last Friday between the Palestinians and Israelis is considered as the first step towards the full implementation of the peace process, since Benjamin Netanyahu took over as Israeli Prime Minister in mid-1996.

It is obvious that the signing of such an accord, wouldn't have been achieved without the hard efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and US President Bill Clinton, who along with the Palestinians and Israelis.

The linchpin of the recent clauses in the latest deal were the Oslo agreements that had been laid down a long time ago. There was a lot of foot-dragging by the Israelis since then, indeed such procrastination wouldn't have happened if they accepted the clauses the first time round.

However, there are basic differences.

The clauses stamped last week come in a new framework, with new mechanisms that give the Israelis the upper hand.

The accord is based on making new amendments to the Palestinian charter, in the full presence of the United States. However, that is just the beginning, for it stipulated the collection of what it termed as illegal weapons from the Palestinian people, while at the same time ignored the same rules for the Israeli settlers, who often smuggle their rifles from Israeli army warehouses.

It also included orders for members of the Palestinian Authority to arrest fugitives suspected of attacking Israeli targets. They would be imprisoned for an unspecified limited time.

These stipulations are designed to violate the simplest forms of human rights.

Despite the disequilibrium against the Palestinian delegation, the Israelis have engaged in pussy-footing tactics through

out the Wye Plantation negotiations. They for instance wanted Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew convicted of spying for Israel, to be released from prison. This is in spite of the fact that Pollard has nothing to do with the Palestinian issue.

Despite the fact that the accord was at last signed after marathon negotiations, the Israeli are still demanding their pound of flesh, with more diversionary tactics, foot-dragging and conditions expected to be the order of the day.

Now, everybody is asking whether the latest accord will hold, but whatever the future is, the accord is vital for the Palestinians because it helps keep the peace track alive.

However, there is another party to consider: the Israelis. They are still deeply divided about the latest deal. While there are many who support the agreement, the hawks are bitterly against it, and it is feared that in the end the balance will tip in their favor.

Peace agreement is only one step on a long road

AFTER 19 months of negotiating inertia and nine long, touch-and-go days of US-brokered bargaining, Israeli and Palestinian leaders have slogged their way a little closer to the goal of ending their half-century of conflict.

The interim agreement reached at Wye Plantation in Maryland this week basically implements some of the principles first outlined five years ago in the secret talks in Oslo that launched the peace process. Ahead lies the enormously difficult task of dealing with such remaining issues as the status of Jerusalem, water rights, more Israeli withdrawals and final borders.

Under this week's deal, Israel is to hand over another 13 percent of the West Bank to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The authority in turn promises to become more proactive, with help from the CIA, in preventing Palestinians from using violence against Israelis to sabotage the peace process.

It also undertakes to expunge anti-Israel provisions from the Palestinian charter. These and other points were agreed to after the usual theatrics, threats and last-minute snags that characterize all Israeli-

impediments were overcome. But the continuing mistrust that so largely defines the relationship between President Arafat and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains visible and

together. But Netanyahu's apparent final-hour effort to extract a major political concession from Washington can only have brought a new chill to the two leaders' relationship.

For years, Israel has sought the release from prison of Jonathan Pollard, a former US naval intelligence employee who was convicted of espionage in 1986 after confessing that he provided Israel with a huge amount of classified information. Clinton has several times refused to release Pollard, whose commutation from a life sentence is strongly opposed by the Justice and Defense departments and the CIA. Netanyahu claimed that an understanding was reached at Wye to release Pollard as part of the overall deal. US officials deny that, and indeed it's hard to imagine that Clinton, however eager for a diplomatic success he may have been, would have agreed to throw Pollard into the deal. The delay in signing the Wye agreement because of the dispute over Pollard was an irrelevancy that tarnishes what was accomplished.

This accomplishment was denounced in advance by both Palestinian and Israeli foes of the peace process. Violence to try to sabotage the interim agreement has to be anticipated. Netanyahu, whose coalition government depends on support from groups that are dead set against withdrawal from the West Bank, faces a threatened revolt that could bring on a major political realignment or early elections.

Yet one more arduous step on the long road to peace has been taken. Had it been taken a year or more earlier, as it certainly could have been, the goal of a final settlement between two peoples who desperately need peace would be that much closer.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Middle East Beat by Khairi Janbeh

Reaching agreement

ALL AGREEMENTS that carry any consequence have supporters on the one side, and critics on the other. With a sense of enthusiasm and relief, Jordan has supported the recent agreements reached between Syria and Turkey, as well as between our Palestinian brethren and Israel. Nobody is under any illusion that the fate of this region rests in how sincere the parties concerned are in implementing these agreements.

The recent marathon of negotiations in the Wye Valley has kept the prospects of peace alive, despite the many major differences of opinion that existed, and continue to exist, between the two sides. At least now, there is a basis for the continuation of the peace process on all fronts.

The issue is as difficult for both Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu. Both have a strong opposition to tackle, and both realize that it is not simply their political future that is at stake, but more importantly, it is the future of their people, and of the region as a whole, which hangs in the balance.

It is undoubtedly, a big responsibility, but the international community understands that the people of this region cannot persevere anymore with the cycles of hope and despair, relying all the time on the fortunes in the peace negotiations. The decisions that have been taken are not merely courageous, but will also determine the fate of the region. We are not talking about ego and a show of political skill, but rather the thin line that separates a life with a future, and a life without.

At the end of the day, if all else fails in the Israeli camp, Mr Netanyahu can go for a national unity government. If he manages to convince Mr Barak to share power, it could allow the whole process into a stillmate again, where each side negates the work of the other. What would we do in the Arab World then? We would have to wait for the next Israeli election, and hope that there is an outright winner. It is most important that we hold Mr Netanyahu to his pledges now, rather than hope that a possible political crisis in his cabinet can solve our problems.

Analysts are saying that the issue is more problematic for Mr Arafat. It is a fact that his leadership is only representative, and that there is no real competition, but this just means that he has to carry the burden of peace, or the lack of peace, alone. The question of transparency and trust must play a major role in Mr Arafat's dealing of the situation, because it is only right to expect that the build up to peace, and its contents, should be shaped with the mutual cooperation and vision of the Palestinian people; those who have shared the same sufferings. By virtue of the trust that has been placed in their leader, the Palestinian people have the right to know all the details that will affect their future.

This can only be achieved through greater cooperation between the PNA and the opposition Palestinian groups. It is absolutely vital that an open channel should be in position for these negotiations and correspondence to take place. After all, there are many in these various groups who have done their share of fighting during the last 50 years, and it is only right that they are given a voice in the building of this peace process.

The drawbacks of operating within the confines of a democratic process are well known by all parties, but an open dialogue, based upon trust and respect of your opponents point of view, is the essential ingredient at this stage of nation building. Condemnations and counter-accusations will not serve any side in the long run; it will not help fix the shattered Palestinian economy, nor will it restore the battered confidence of the Palestinian people.

Dialogue and democracy should be the weapons used at this particular stage; terrorism and taking the law into your own hands should be shelved. An inter-Palestinian dialogue is urgently needed.

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Food for thought

SURELY THE fruits of peace are long over due. The fifth anniversary of the signing of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty passed us last week without a whimper. It was on 26 October 1993 that the first Jordan-Israeli peace agreement was signed. At that time there was a lot of pomp and ceremony. However, this time there was no cause for celebration, as the promised fruits of peace are yet to materialize. Political stability has not gone hand in hand with economic prosperity.

Soon after the peace accord was signed, the then Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali said that Jordanians would have to wait a while for the fruits of peace to materialize. He was quite right. Things were not to filter through. Indeed, the

in 1995, there was the beginning of economic prosperity. This was spurred on by the holding of the Mena summit in Amman that year.

However, as soon as the economic sluggishness started to set in. The promised mega projects were planned and discussed during the summit were never implemented. Officials have since said that because of the mega nature of the project there is bound to be a delay in planning and implementation.

A fair comment it may be, but how long should Jordanians wait for the promised fruits of peace? For the time it was a cliché, but now it has become a cause of embarrassment. What is the point of celebrating the signing of the peace accord if the fruits of peace are not seen? Like it or not, though, the fruits of peace must appear.

Revamping the peace process

Pact long on technicality, short on historical importance

By Tracy Wilkinson and Rebecca Trounson

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—The marathon Middle East summit, which ended last Friday, succeeded in breaking a deadlock of more than 19 months and has revived, for the moment, a moribund peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu got the security plan he wanted. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat got another 520 square kilometers of West Bank desert and hills. Less than what he wanted, and in an installment plan as well.

Yet, as hard-fought as the Wye Plantation Memorandum may appear, it only lays out steps that should have been taken months or years ago, and reaffirms points already agreed upon. The most contentious issues seem to have been deferred.

The considerable weight of the American president, his secretary of state, his CIA director and his formidable negotiating team, failed to overcome the deep mistrust and animosity with which Netanyahu and Arafat regard each other.

In the end, a great deal of high-level energy was expended to achieve an agreement that, while important, is more technical than landmark. That it took nine days to accomplish is the most telling indicator of the inability of the two parties to talk to each other, and despite an emotional and respectful signing ceremony at the White House, there is nothing concrete out of Wye Plantation to suggest this estrangement will improve in the very difficult negotiations that lie ahead, nor in the step-by-step implementation.

The bitter tone of talks at Wye confirms that relations between the current Israeli and Palestinian regimes are steeped in hostility and disdain. The new era of "peaceful co-existence, historic reconciliation and mutual dignity" envisioned in the 1993 Oslo accords that formally ended Israeli-Palestinian hostilities is clearly a thing of the past.

Uri Savir, principal negotiator of the Oslo accords who now heads the Peres Institute for Peace in Tel Aviv, welcomed Friday's agreement, but worried about whether it will form a foundation.

"The sense of partnership that opened up a new spirit in the region with [Oslo] is gone, and these negotiations

did not create the impression that there is a basic empathy or mutual understanding or an eagerness to move forward," Savir said. "This does not set the peace process on very constructive footing."

Netanyahu, whose Likud Party came to power in 1996, reluctantly inherited the Oslo accords from his Labor Party predecessors. He first relinquished land in January 1997, when Israel agreed to withdraw troops from most of the West Bank city of Hebron. But two months later, the peace process was plunged into crisis: Israel broke ground on a 6,500-unit housing project in disputed East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians considered to be a violation of Oslo. The crisis deepened with suicide bomb-

West Bank territory.

This third phase of troop withdrawal is critical because the land ceded then cements the borders of the future Palestinian entity, whatever legal form it takes.

If round-the-clock presidential intervention was required to end months of delay and secure a minor interim agreement, then the prospects seem dim for resolving such complex pending matters.

Originally, these issues were to be negotiated over the three years ending on the Oslo expiration date of May 4, 1999. Now they must be crammed into a seven-month period, a nearly impossible feat.

President Clinton announced last Friday that he

that show overwhelming Israeli support for a peace deal.

Arafat, on the other hand, has little choice but to go along with any deal he can get.

Opinion polls show continued support for the Oslo accords among Israelis and Palestinians. A Gallup poll conducted as the summit began showed 82 percent of Israelis favored a peace deal, with the majority, 57 percent, willing to cede 13 percent of the West Bank to Palestinian control.

The prime minister's own polling convinced him that, armed with a peace deal, he could go to new elections confident of victory, his aides said. And leaders of the opposition Labor Party,

which signed the original Oslo peace accords under former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have pledged their support, at least in the short term.

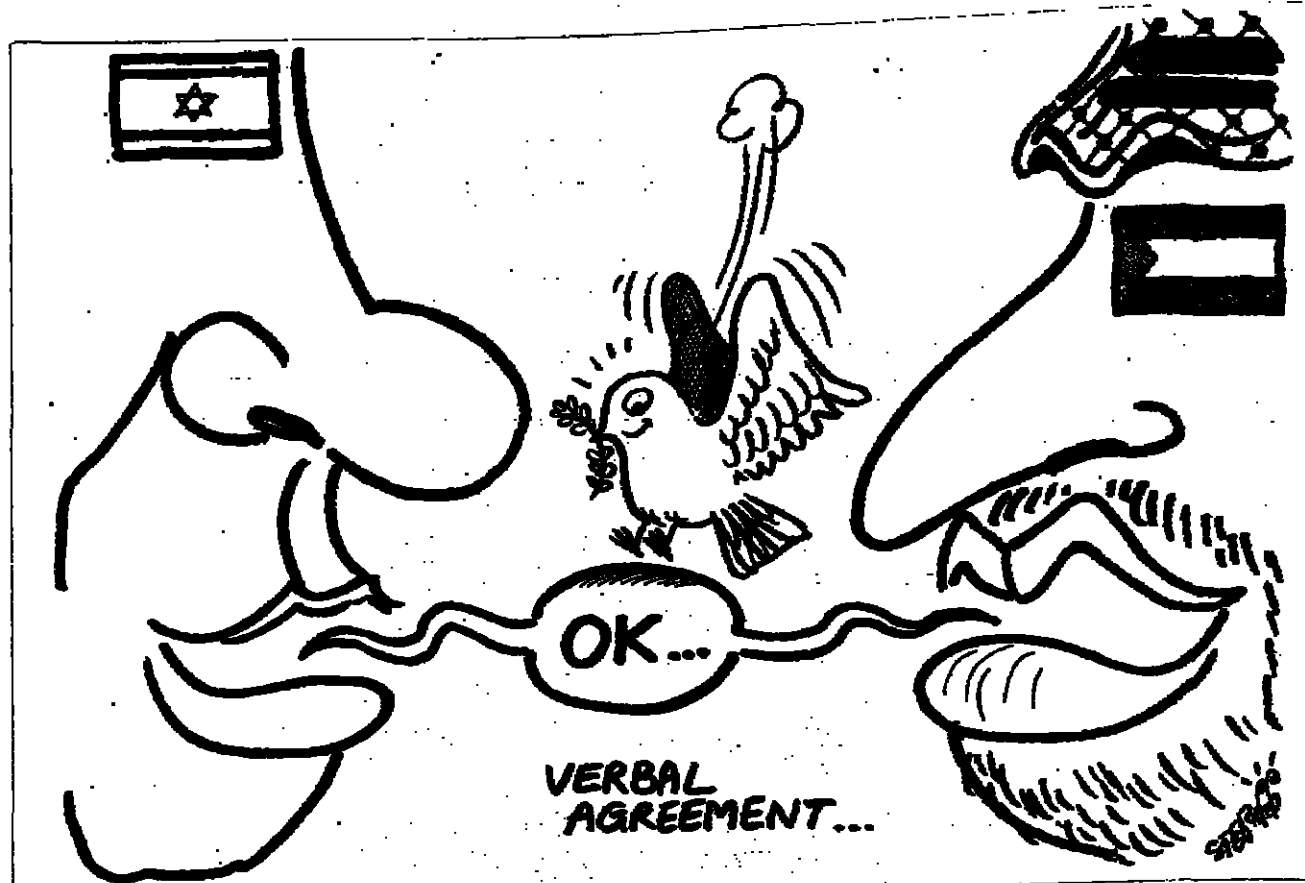
As for his gains, Arafat can show a couple of additional building blocks of the state he hopes to create, and an apparently enhanced relationship with Washington. But his territorial ambitions have been greatly reduced by Netanyahu's resistance.

The most emotional demand for the Palestinians was the release of more than 3,000 prisoners held in Israeli jails. Under Oslo and subse-

quent agreements, Israel was committed to freeing many of the men and women regarded by Palestinians as political prisoners, but only a few dozen have been released.

Under the new agreement, 750 prisoners will be freed gradually. Israeli officials said this will not include any Palestinian accused of murdering an Israeli. The number, however, is not likely to satisfy relatives who have been rallying daily in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians will be allowed to open an airport that has stood ready, but empty for months, and two routes of safe passage will be established that will allow Palestinians to drive between the West Bank and Gaza. It will be most difficult for Arafat to explain to his people his willingness to arrest 30 men wanted by Israel, including more than a dozen serving in his police force, and his commitment to crack down on Islamic militancy.



Agreement gives Palestinians new steps toward state

By Lee Hockstader

RAMALLAH, West Bank—At a tumbledown government office in downtown Ramallah, crisp new Palestinian Authority passports are issued, valid for travel to 77 countries. Palestinian Authority stamps are sold at a window counter, and framed portraits of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat smile down from every wall.

Until now, these symbols of Palestinian statehood have lacked one thing: a state. But by signing the latest Middle East peace pact last Friday at the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Arafat might have given Palestinian statehood a potent shove toward reality—and in the process, reshaped the politics of the Middle East.

In addition to extending Palestinian civil control to 40 percent of the West Bank, the new agreement beefs up the trappings of sovereignty and increases what many analysts here say is the momentum toward real statehood.

Arafat, evidently cheered by the signing of the accord after nine grueling days of talks, confidently predicted that a real Palestinian state is just a matter of time. "It is coming very soon," he told reporters in Austria after briefing European leaders on the deal.

Mahdi Abdul-Hadi, an intellectual who heads the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, told the *LA Times* and *Washington Post* News Service. "The cornerstone of statehood has been laid down by Arafat. And [the new accord] moves us forward seriously," he added.

The distance to genuine sovereignty is still formidable. Take the trappings of statehood on offer at the government center in Ramallah.

Those crisp new passports, printed in Gaza with German equipment, are useless until they are approved by Israel, a process that can take two weeks or more. Even if Israel approves a passport, the bearer

would still require permission from the Jewish state to travel from the West Bank [or Gaza] to Ben-Gurion international airport in Israel.

The Palestinian postage stamps are handily printed with images of Arafat, Bethlehem and native costumes. But, in the absence of a national currency or central bank, they must be paid for with Israeli shekels. As for Arafat, his authority as an elected leader is legitimate. But his domain is an indistinct patchwork of noncontiguous land scraps whose borders, scope and future are all still subject to hard bargaining with Israel. "There's a word for all that," said Abdul-Hadi. "It's called an apartheid system."

In the meantime, the strange hybrid of the Palestinian Authority continues to run its own postal system, which by Middle Eastern standards is impressively efficient. A letter mailed from the Palestinian city of Ramallah on Monday will usually reach Nablus, 25 miles away, by Tuesday or Wednesday.

There is an elected government, elected parliament and a national anthem ("The Fighter"). Palestine Airlines, the national carrier, just added a Boeing 727, donated by Saudi Prince Waheed bin Talal, to its fleet of two smaller, Dutch-made Fokker-50 aircraft. [Since the Palestinian airport in Gaza has not yet opened, the planes fly only

between Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.] A paramilitary force of perhaps 40,000 men resembles an army in some respects and exceeds the limits Arafat agreed to in previous accords with Israel. The Palestinian navy has a handful of rubber boats plying the Mediterranean waters off Gaza.

"The state is there, in fact," said Abdul-Hadi. "It's up to the Israelis to wake up and realize it."

If the Palestinian state's contours were indistinct before the intensive negotiations in Maryland, they are now coming into focus. Until this accord, the Palestinians had complete civil and internal security control over just three percent of the territory of the West Bank essentially; the cities. Now, assuming the pact is fully implemented, "signed" Israeli troop withdrawals will extend exclusive internal Palestinian control to 17 percent of the Delaware-sized territory. If the accord is implemented, the Palestinians will also have civil authority over an additional 23 percent of the West Bank, although Israel will retain ultimate security control in that territory. The pact also provides for unpaved road transportation between Gaza, where 1 million Palestinians live, and the West Bank, home to 1.7 million of them.

That change, affecting thousands of lives, would give Palestinians a measure of freedom of movement they have lacked in recent years. Until now West Bank Palestinians and those in Gaza could travel across the 20 miles of Israeli-occupied territory separating them only with Israeli permission, which, for ill-defined security reasons, was difficult to secure. In addition to crippling the potential for commerce between the two territories, the restrictions bedeviled mail service, divided families and prevented Gaza students from enrolling at West Bank universities, and vice versa.

Coupled with the opening of the airport, which has been ready for passengers and airplanes for months, Palestinians would enjoy an unprecedented degree of freedom from Israeli control. Although Israel will have a security presence at the Gaza airport, as a courtesy it agreed not to subject Arafat's personal plane to security searches. But among ordinary Palestinians, there is no rejoicing, not yet at least.

Few of them believe Israel will comply with the bargain, and fewer still trust Netanyahu. Even as official Palestinian media were trumpeting the achievements of the Maryland talks, at the al-Ain grocery store in Ramallah, the mood about statehood was: "We'll believe it when we see it."

"This agreement doesn't achieve real justice," said Jamal, a man in his fifties whose son is the manager. "Palestinian rights are broader than the words in this agreement."



ings by Palestinian militants that killed dozens of Israelis.

Ever since, attempts at negotiation went nowhere, and relations between Netanyahu and Arafat grew colder.

Last Friday, symbolically, there were small gestures and hinted overtures in the concluding public appearances of the two men. With a beaming, gaunt Jordanian King Hussein watching like a proud, worried father, the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian Authority chairman referred to each other as "partners," and were careful to acknowledge each other during the White House ceremony. Netanyahu thanked Arafat for the flowers he sent on Netanyahu's 49th birthday Wednesday.

Left untouched, however, were fundamental issues that will define the permanent relationship between Israel and the Palestinian community: status of the disputed city of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, Jewish settlements, Palestinian refugees, Israeli withdrawal from a final, yet-to-be determined swath of

will convene the two leaders for these so-called "final-status" talks at an unspecified date. Arafat has threatened in the past to declare an independent Palestinian state on 4 May if the issues are not resolved by the deadline.

"I don't see any likelihood that the Netanyahu government and the Palestinian government under Arafat can hold constructive negotiations on final status," said Joseph Alpher, head of the Jerusalem office of the American Jewish Committee. "When the smoke clears, we'll have deadlocked final-status talks, which bring us back to the really big problem, and that's 4 May. In different circumstances, this (interim agreement) could have been a confidence-building measure. In these circumstances, it's likely to be exactly the opposite."

For Netanyahu the political risks seem great, especially with right-wing politicians already planning a no-confidence vote; in fact, his calculation is shrewd and made with an eye on polls

Mideast accord no cause for celebration in Arab World

By John Daniszewski

CAIRO—There was no celebrating in the Arab world last Saturday over the successful conclusion of an interim peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. Rather, the dominant mood was resentment that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took so long to concede so little to the Palestinians.

"The slogan for the Wye Plantation agreement should be 'Humiliation for Peace,'" said columnist Abdel Wahad Badrakhan of the pan-Arab daily *Al Hayat*, who said Palestinians and Americans had been submitted to "blackmail" by the Israeli side in the prolonged negotiations. Syria's government newspaper *Al Thawra* echoed that sentiment, calling the accord "a liquidation and a total surrender" of what had remained on the Palestinian rights.

The bitterness had much to do with Arab perceptions that what Netanyahu agreed to opening an airport in the Gaza Strip, providing a corridor for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank, freeing Palestinian prisoners and a troop pullback from an

additional 13 percent of West Bank territory had already been promised in earlier accords.

If Netanyahu had to be dragged unwillingly through months of negotiations, culminating in a nine-day summit and 90 hours of wrangling with the US president himself to do only that, Arabs doubt his intention to negotiate in good faith for the Palestinians' chief demand of a Palestinian state encompassing most of the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital.

"The Wye summit is nothing but an anesthetic, a cosmetic attempt to beautify an ugly reality based on deception and destined to deliver bitter disappointment," said Ragheba Dergam, another *Al Hayat* writer. "For what it has

revealed is a virtual acknowledgment that Israeli and Palestinian aspirations are incompatible and irreconcilable. These days there is no vision and no trust [and] no enthusiasm for coexisting."

Others suggested that whatever Israel gained by its hard-nosed bargaining may harm its own interests in the long run. "The Wye Mills accord could drive the Palestinian people away from [Palestinian Authority President] Arafat and straight into the arms of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and his Hamas movement," said Qatar's independent *Gulf Times* newspaper.

Amid the general sourness, however, there were a few notes of optimism, albeit cautious. These came mainly from states such as Jordan and Egypt, who

have risked much on peace with Israel, and from some other Arab countries that see Arab-Israeli peace as the key that will at last give the Middle East its chance for stability, progress and prosperity.

An official statement from Oman praised the Wye Plantation accord as one that could "advance the peace process toward the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples."

"One step on the right path" is how Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa characterized the accord.

"I think both sides made gains," said Ahmed Guindy, managing editor of *Al Akhbar*, a semi-official daily in Egypt. "Palestinians will get back their land, in spite of various

restrictions such as being under the supervision of Israeli security forces or the CIA. But at least they are getting their land back, and that is itself a big gain."

But many commentators believed that even though Netanyahu has signed the interim accord, there will still be a struggle in coming months to make sure that the commitments made by Israel are actually carried out. The Palestinians "have to realize, with the experience they had with the Oslo agreement, that it is not the last word to be said. The important thing is whether this agreement will be applied without any obstacles," Egyptian columnist Salama Ahmed Salama said in a telephone interview.

In non-Arab Iran, where the clerical-led government does not recognize the state of Israel and urges that Palestinian rights be restored on all of historical Palestine, meaning Israel proper as well as the West Bank and Gaza, the hard-line newspaper *Kayhan* said the agreement would only "encourage the Zionist regime to continue its oppression."

CIA into role of Mideast's honest broker

By John Daniszewski

For many reasons, the Israeli government is using the CIA as an honest broker in the peace process. The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has said that the CIA is the only party that can be trusted to mediate between the two sides. The CIA has been working closely with the Israeli government for many years, and its role in the peace process is becoming increasingly important.

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Leaders praise Clinton as patient, tireless 'warrior for peace'

By Thomas W. Lippman and John F. Harris

WASHINGTON—The most remarkable chapter of personal diplomacy of the Clinton presidency began with a succession of nights that ended late and reached its dramatic close with one that did not end at all.

Instead, Thursday stretched into Friday morning, and still President Clinton kept moving on what he on Friday night called his "personal journey" to help find a Mideast peace. That journey was a presidential high-wire act that consumed some 85 hours of Clinton's time over nine days and threatened to end many times in a failure that would have been a diplomatic, political and personal disaster.

Instead, a president who has managed countless times to achieve victories in the closing hours of crisis did so again. Clinton, his house voice conveying a mix of exhaustion and elation, made clear last Friday night that what happened at the Wye River summit was for him a path to redemption.

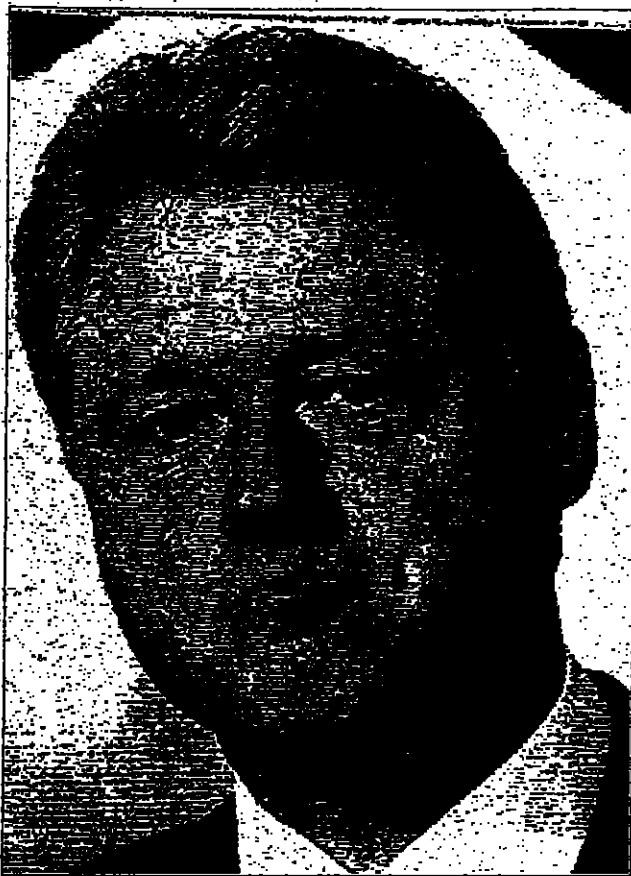
"I felt that it was a part of my job as president, my mission as a Christian and my personal journey of atonement," Clinton told a gathering of black religious leaders celebrating the 160th anniversary of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church. "And I am grateful that God gave me the chance to do this for the last nine days."

Clinton did not directly mention the personal scandal that has forced on his journey of atonement. But the fact that the diplomatic gamble he took in calling the summit apparently paid off did demonstrate that his presidency retains a significant share of its power to shape events even amid the pending impeachment hearings over the Monica S. Lewinsky controversy.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan all lavished praise on Clinton's negotiating style Friday afternoon.

"I mean, he doesn't stop," Netanyahu said ruefully at the signing ceremony for the Middle East peace accord they forged. "He has this ability to maintain a tireless pace and to nudge and prod and suggest and use a nimble and flexible mind."

It was a deal that almost didn't happen, a deal that for nine days teetered on the brink and then regrouped, and teetered one last time at daybreak Friday, only to be ready to leave the Wye River conference cen-



ter on Maryland's Eastern Shore for a White House ceremony optimistically scheduled for noon. The helicopters shut down, and the ceremony was postponed, while Clinton confronted Netanyahu for one more hangle.

But by late afternoon, with the deadline of the Jewish Sabbath approaching at sundown, the deal was in place and Clinton was where he wanted to be—standing in the East Room, on global television, announcing that an interim agreement on moving forward in the crisis-prone peace process was at hand.

Netanyahu, whose relations with Clinton have often been tense and who was snubbed by the White House on a previous US visit, hailed the president as "a warrior for peace." Clinton, he said, had the ability "to truly explore the possibilities of both sides, and never just on one side. That is a great gift. I think, and a precious and unique one, and it served us well."

Arafat, pledging that the Palestinians will "never go back to violence and confrontation," saluted Clinton for his efforts to bring peace to Ireland as well as the Middle East, and said the president "will stay in the heart of every Palestinian person, with love."

Then Clinton gave the microphone to King Hussein,

who earlier in the week flew here from Minnesota, where he was undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer, to lend his reputation for sagacity and evenhandedness to the effort to reach agreement.

Hussein joked that the talks went on so long that US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross "has lost his black hair and replaced it with gray. I have lost all mine and even my eyebrows."

The king, who has known every US president since Dwight D. Eisenhower, added his own tribute to Clinton. "I have never, with all due respect and all the affection that I held for your predecessors, known someone with your dedication, clearheadedness, focus and determination to help resolve this issue in the best possible way. You have the tolerance and the patience of Job, and you are the subject of our admiration and respect."

Even though the outlines of the agreement were known before the talks began, and they constitute only a partial and overdue step toward a complete Israeli-Palestinian accord, the talks provided Clinton with a golden opportunity to present himself as a statesman unbowed by scandal, and he seized it with relish.

Cutting the deal took nine days and scores of hours of Clinton's time, and required

him to get deep into the intricate details of the negotiations.

According to Ross, a key moment came on Tuesday, when the president decided it was futile to try to reach agreement on each point separately. He called for an "inventory" of all the issues, Ross said, and said, "Let's see if there's groups of issues that we can settle now and then reserve the harder issues for later." And I think that was probably a key point that really gave us a push."

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright said the negotiations were difficult, but the fact that Clinton took part in a Camp David-style setting, with the participants eating together at all hours, helped break down the hostility that had settled over Israeli-Palestinian relations in the past year and a half. But as a second weekend approached and exhaustion overtook the participants, even Clinton seemed to be running out of patience, snapping at one point late Thursday, "We're going to get an agreement tonight or we're not going to get an agreement."

The outcome, Vice President Gore said, was always in doubt, and only Clinton's "personal commitment and perseverance and stamina and determination and sheer will kept the participants awake and the talks on track."

Looking toward implementation of the agreement, Clinton agreed to go to Gaza six weeks from now to attend a ceremony at which the Palestinians are to formally revoke provisions in their national charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

Then, according to Ross, Clinton hopes to convene another trilateral summit next spring to mark completion of so-called "permanent status" negotiations on such thorny issues as the future political status of Palestine and the desire of Palestinians in exile to return to their homeland.

"Even after the interim deal was sealed with a handshake as the sun rose Friday, it almost unraveled over a demand by Jonathan Pollard, an American convicted of spying for Israel and sentenced to life imprisonment 12 years ago.

There ensued several hours of tense discussions between Clinton and Netanyahu that did not involve the Palestinians at all. In the early afternoon, Clinton persuaded Netanyahu to settle for a commitment to "review" the Pollard case, and the participants raced to the White House to complete the signing ceremony before sun-



Chilean women hold onto a giant photograph of former leader General Augusto Pinochet during a pro-Pinochet rally in the upper part of town in Santiago, 24 October. Some 15,000 Chileans gathered to demand the freedom of the former dictator, and according to police this was the largest demonstration in Chile this decade.

Shattered trust grips Kosovo refugees

By R. Jeffrey Smith

BLACE, Yugoslavia—The police captain who commands a bunker perched on a hillside overlooking this small town says he wants to strike a deal with its residents. "I can't go there," he says to several visitors, "so please tell them that as long as they guarantee they won't shoot at us, we won't shoot at them."

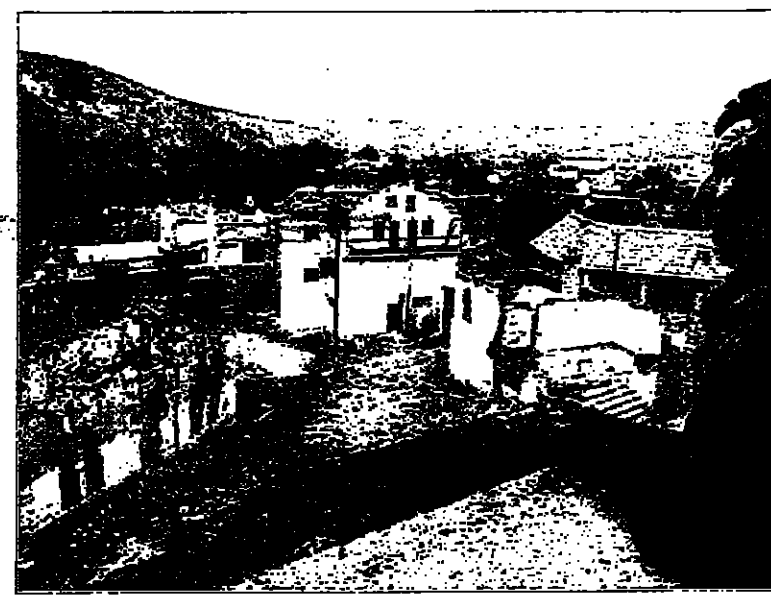
The only signs of life in Blace were a few stray cats and mangy dogs. All its residents fled when fighting erupted nearby in June, leaving their homes and possessions largely intact, but many say that as long as the police captain and his forces remain deployed so near the town, they have no intention of returning.

In short, there is no deal to be had here between Serb-led security forces and the majority ethnic-Albanian residents of Kosovo, a circumstance

repeated in dozens of other villages in this strife-torn province of Serbia, the dominant republic of Yugoslavia.

Despite considerable Western pressure on both sides to set aside their mutual hatred long enough for more than 300,000 refugees to go back to their villages, an armed standoff has kept most of them from doing so.

"What they want is to feel secure," said Laura Boldrin, an information officer for the UN High



Commissioner for Refugees, as she stood in the middle of a remote camp near the village of Resnik, northwest of here, where 64 people have been living in makeshift tents for the past three months without any humanitarian aid. "These people obviously don't have that feeling yet."

One reason, Western officials here say, is that the government has continued its deployment of Interior Ministry troops in crude brick-and-sandbag bunkers along every major highway and in buildings located in hundreds of villages in Kosovo—including some locations in the central and eastern regions where few or no police were present before fighting escalated last March.

Diplomatic monitors report that no additional withdrawals of troops from Kosovo have occurred in the past several days, despite repeated demands by Washington and allied capitals.

One armored unit was returned to its garrison in the provincial capital, Pristina, last week in compliance with the NATO request, but two other armored units remained deployed near major highways elsewhere in the country, "where they should not be," a US official said. A third unit is also deployed in the field contrary to NATO demands.

Over the past week, NATO military officers and US diplomatic monitors have quietly taken on the task of mediating disputes over military deployments near specific highways and towns between government security forces and members of an ethnic Albanian insurgent group known as the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The rebel group has been fighting for Kosovo's independence from Serbia. The aim of the negotiations has been to persuade the government to withdraw more of its forces before NATO's Tuesday deadline for additional withdrawals—backed up by the threat of possible airstrikes—in exchange for a

series of promises by the Kosovo Liberation Army that it will not attempt to control particular roads or attack routine police patrols.

However, the negotiations have only partly succeeded. The withdrawal of the armored unit from the north-eastern city of Podujevo came after local Kosovo Liberation Army commanders agreed not to interfere with traffic on a nearby highway. A similar deal for additional Serb withdrawals along a road in central Kosovo—leading south from Malisevo past the town of Pagarusha—fell apart after the KLA refused in the end to promise it would not attack routine police patrols there.

"The aim is to have no fixed points where forces are deployed by either side," an approach that would still allow Serb patrols wherever they wish to go, a Western official said. Yet, the Serbs are not prepared to pull back where the (KLA) will come back in and regain control of territory or highways seized during the government's brutal four-month summer offensive.

Western officials say the police bunker overlooking this town, which was formerly a rebel checkpoint, is one of those that should be withdrawn, but the captain there, who declined to give his name, said he opposed making such a move unless ethnic Albanians—who comprise 90 percent of the population in Kosovo but have no control over the levers of power—will "guarantee that we can do our job and everything we want."

Aferdita Zekolli, 21, a refugee from Blace now living in a village to the northeast, said she and 10 relatives will not go back because she has heard of repeated shelling and shooting by the police. Only two families had returned in the past three months, and they "fled again last night," she said.

Britain set to end Argentina arms ban

By Ken Warn

BRITAIN LOOKS set to drop the arms embargo on Argentina during the visit by President Carlos Menem to the UK next week.

Britain imposed the embargo after the 1982 Falklands conflict. It was "a completely unjust discrimination" against Argentina, Mr

Menem said in an interview with British journalists last week. "It concerns me that Argentina is in the same situation as Iran and Iraq with respect to arms."

Lifting of the embargo could prove one of the main diplomatic achievements of Mr Menem's visit, which marks the culmination of the often painful struggle to

reconstruct bilateral relations since the short but bloody conflict around the islands, over which both countries claim sovereignty.

The trip comes at a time of growing trade links and booming British investment in Argentina, along with increasing co-operation in areas such as international trade negotiations and UN

peacekeeping.

The arms embargo has already been partially eased in connection with Argentina's peacekeeping efforts, in which British and Argentine forces work side by side, said William Marsden, Britain's ambassador in Buenos Aires.

Mr Menem, the first Argentine president to visit

the UK for almost four decades, will be accompanied by more than 100 Argentine business leaders eager to sell into UK markets or drum up investment. He will also address the Confederation of British Industry meeting in Birmingham as foreign guest of honour.

The president is due to lay a wreath at the South Atlantic memorial in St Paul's Cathedral in a gesture of reconciliation. However, the issue of the islands' sovereignty will remain as a nagging undercurrent to the visit.

Mr Menem confirmed he would raise Argentina's historic claim to the islands during talks with Tony Blair, Britain's prime minister. Mr Blair is expected to respond by reiterating Britain's position that no change on sovereignty is possible without the islanders' express approval.

However, Mr Menem denied he would raise the issue in his meeting with Queen Elizabeth, easing UK fears of a protocol disaster. "That would be totally inconsiderate. This is an issue for the politicians," he said.

London and Buenos Aires resumed diplomatic ties eight years ago, putting the Falklands dispute under a diplomatic "umbrella" which has allowed the effective handling of other bilateral issues. "The umbrella continues in place," said Mr Menem.

Only one serious effort has been made to find a more permanent formula to replace the umbrella. Secret January 1997 talks in the UK collapsed, apparently as a result of divisions on the Argentine side. Any resumption of this

process appears extremely unlikely in the run-up to Argentina's presidential elections next year.

Efforts to launch a joint oil exploration round in shared waters to the west of the islands may also get a push from the visit. "We are making progress, but it's probably unrealistic to set a date for the round just yet," said Mr Marsden.

Exploration to the north of the islands, under a round launched solely by the islanders, has failed to discover oil or gas in commercial quantities.

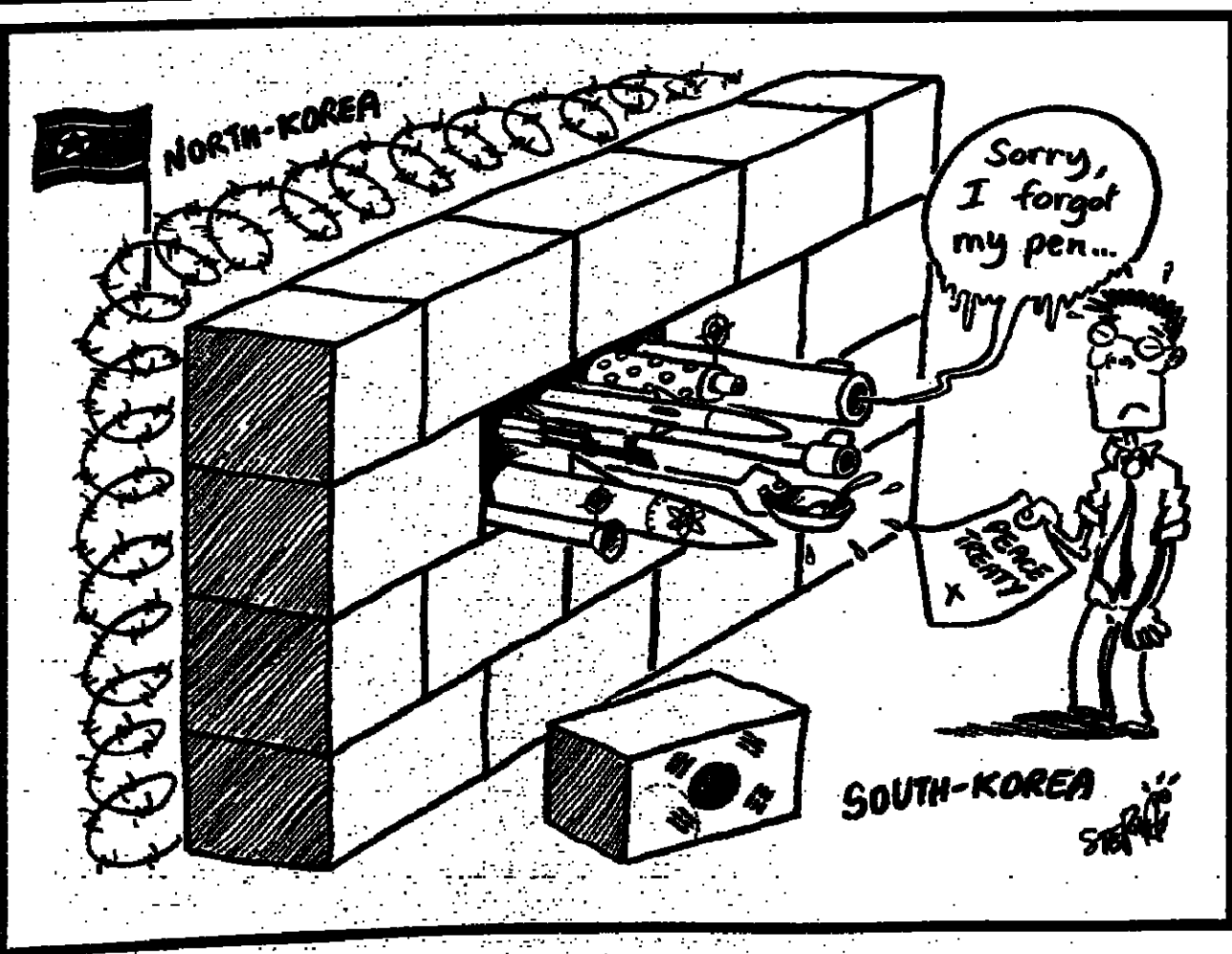
Business links have been rapidly rebuilt since 1990. While Britain has become the biggest importer of Argentine wine, services, spearheaded by HSBC's \$700m purchase of the Banco Roberts group last year.

Eagle Star, after only three years in the market, has become Argentina's largest life insurer, while Royal & Sun Alliance leads the non-life sector. Officials have identified the transport sector as another promising area for British investment.

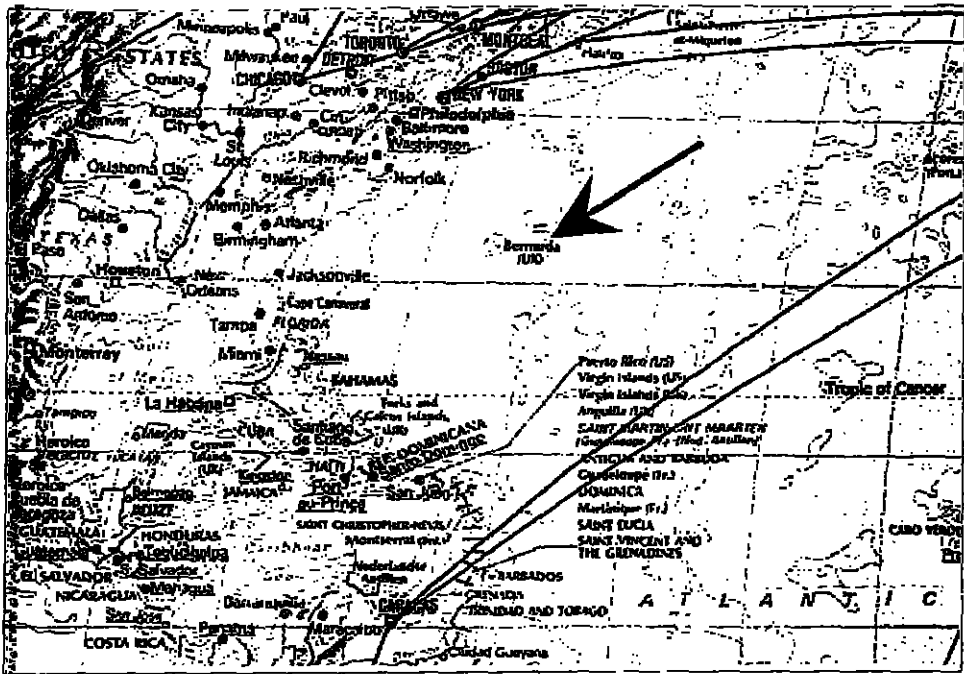
Britain's exports to Argentina reached £487m (\$832m) last year, against imports from Argentina of £270m.

Meanwhile, the consultancy arm of Britain's Post Office is advising Argentina's newly privatised postal service, which has taken to painting its letter boxes bright red. It makes many Buenos Aires street corners look disconcertingly like those in London.

Financial Times Syndication



39.11.1998



Oh, about Bermuda...

By Gordan Buchanan

MOST OF us have only a vague sense of Caribbean geography. We know Cuba is near Florida, that South America is down there somewhere and in between there are plenty of really nice places to take a vacation. But the Windwards? The Leewards? The ABC chain? Hispaniola? No mnemonic device seems to help. The easy solution is to consult a map. Unless, of course, you're looking for Bermuda.

Despite the efforts of some travel marketers to confuse the issue, Bermuda has nothing to do with the Caribbean (Technically speaking, the Bahamas aren't in the Caribbean). The tiny, 21-square-mile, Anglo-titling island is a region unto itself, located 870 miles east-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and surrounded by nothing but Atlantic Ocean. For years, despite the obvious differences in climate, location and culture, the Caribbean and Bermuda were one in the eyes of many travelers, and choosing between them was a coin toss. After all, both were islands you visit to take a beach vacation and the rest, it could be said, was details. And at a time when Caribbean destinations were just gaining political independence and establishing economic and tourism infrastructures, Bermuda was seen by many as a safe, clean, respectable, lovably

quirky island haven.

But as the other island destinations—many offering better winter weather and considerably lower prices—have begun to compete for and win US travelers, Bermuda traffic has slowed. One local travel agent estimates a drop in local clientele of about 70 percent; others report Bermuda business to be flat.

"Bermuda is not an area where we regularly see discounted fares," said Colleen Swilling, an agent at Suburban Travel. In search of the lowest fare to Bermuda for the period 14 September-31 March, Swilling quoted a \$506 round-trip fare from Washington area airports (Peak season in Bermuda is April through November, so this qualifies as a low-season rate).

But travel from Washington to St. Thomas during the same period—the Caribbean's high season—costs about \$406. Air to the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Cancun and other volume-tourism areas can be even less. Absent some urgent longing for the specific charms of Bermuda, many travelers will follow the better air fares farther south.

The American travel market is extremely price-sensitive, conceded Gary Phillips, Bermuda's director of tourism. But deregulation of the airlines and the opening of some world destinations are to blame for the drop in Bermuda tourism, he

says. "Traditional Bermuda travelers have many more options now," he said. "We never dreamed that we would be competing with Vietnam, or that people would be able to go to Moscow, but that's the reality."

In terms of competition with the Caribbean, Phillips insisted that the "total island experience" visitors get on Bermuda is simply not to be had in Jamaica, the Bahamas or some of the other popular islands. All of Bermuda's areas are safe and open to visitors, he says, and the island is positioned as a country club away from home, offering a distinctly upmarket feel and lots of golf. Bermuda depends on America for 85 percent of its travel business; it reports a 1 percent decline in total US visitors between 1997 and 1998. The customer base tends to be older than at most Caribbean islands, but the corporate meeting market is strong. Fifty percent of Bermuda tourists are repeat visitors. But when it comes to price, Phillips, the island's tourism director, is clear.

"Bermuda gives value for money, and an experience you can't get anywhere else. There are people who are prepared to pay for something better. These are our guests." For more information:

www.bermudatourism.com

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

The man who ate his own boots

By Peter Aspdén

FERGUS FLEMING, an editor at Time-Life Books, was researching a volume on the dry topic of 19th century British history, when he suddenly came across the irresistible tale of the man who ate his own boots.

The iron-stomached John Franklin was no circus act. He was one of Britain's foremost Arctic explorers in the first half of the 19th century, and his unusual supper helped see him through the winter of 1821, when he and his party were trapped, ice-bound and without food, off the treacherous Canadian coastline, the Financial Times Syndication reported.

By the time Franklin returned to Britain, he was a hero, popularly acclaimed for his ingenious ways with footwear.

"I didn't think too much about it at first," says Fleming, "but then it began to sink in. I looked at my shoes. Did this man really eat his own boots?"

The tale, verified by Franklin's own journal, inspired Fleming to look further into Britain's pioneering explorers of the period. The result of his research is Barrow's Boys, published next month by

Granta Books, a stirring story of daring, fortitude and outright lunacy.

The protagonist of Fleming's account is John Barrow, the career bureaucrat who was appointed second secretary of the Admiralty at the beginning of the 19th century, and who set in motion some of the most dramatic—and foolhardy—expeditions in history.

Barrow makes an unlikely hero. "He was not a flamboyant man, but he was highly intelligent and ambitious and decided to carve out this niche for himself," says Fleming. Barrow was also lucky in his timing. The Royal Navy was in the throes of massive disarmament following the Napoleonic Wars, and a number of officers had been moth-balled on half-pay, with little prospect of promotion.

Barrow twinned this ready-made source of labour with an appeal to national pride. It would have been a terrible blow to Britain if other countries—France, Russia or America—should lead the way in opening up the globe. So he was allowed to pursue his pet projects.

Two of these became the substance of his life's work: to find the north-west passage,

which would open a trade route linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; and to find the mouth of the Niger, which would become a commercial gateway to Africa.

Volunteers sprang forward, and off they went, many of them to horrible deaths or disappearance. There was little common sense applied to their ventures, for, as Fleming puts it, "it is hard to be rational about the unknown." But there was always an impressive, peculiarly British, sense of style.

Take William Edward Parry, who set off for the Arctic in 1819. He knew that his crew's first complete day without sun in the region would inflict a telling psychological blow; so he countered with the first performance of his "Royal Arctic Theatre," a rendition of a contemporary comedy on board the ship, to help keep morale high. Then there was the ship's North Georgia Gazette and Winter Chronicle, a journalistic diversion for the men as temperatures plummeted during the long winter.

The "benign and bizarre" encounter between another expedition, led by John Ross, and a group of Eskimos was another example of what Flem-

ing describes as the "Dantesque from the ship in full naval regalia, pulling hard on their noses as they had been advised; the locals played some football, addressed a series of questions to the hull of the ship, and wondered whether the crew's watches made a good snack."

The strangeness of these scenes paled beside the exploits of Africa's weirdest explorer, the indomitable Gordon Laing. He crossed the Sahara in search of the Niger and the mythical Eldorado of Timbuctoo. After 400 miles strapped on to the back of a camel, he emerged from the desert with plentiful sabre cuts, a fractured jawbone, a musket ball in the hip, three broken fingers and a slashed wrist, and suffering from a yellow fever-like plague.

"I am nevertheless doing well," he confided Pythonesquely in his journal, "and hope yet to return to England with much important geographical information."

"Laing was mad," says Fleming, "but a lot of slightly mad people are very plausible." The withered, limping Laing entered Timbuctoo, in August 1826, the first white man ever to do so, only to dis-

cover a sordid, mud-brick town instead of the palaces of gold he had expected. He was murdered within a month.

This sense of anti-climax was one of the charms of Barrow's expeditions, according to Fleming. "None of them really discovered anything terribly important. They never found a useful north-west passage. Timbuctoo was a great let-down, the mouth of the Niger was not a crucial discovery."

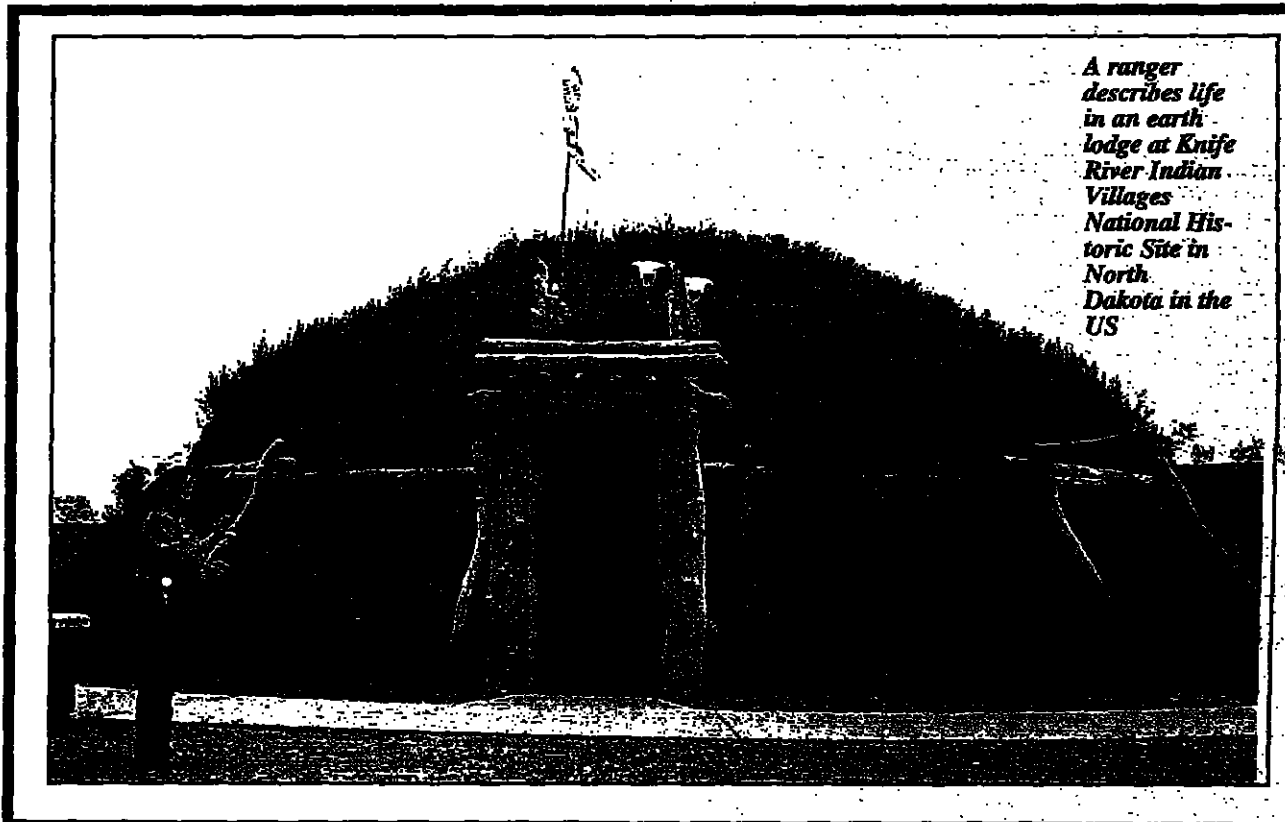
So what was it all about? "It was about a group of men who were brave, but not particularly idealistic. They were doing it for promotion and reward."

But the exploits of Barrow's boys also marked a change in British sensibility, from the dry perspectives of 18th century Enlightenment to the beginnings of Romanticism. Once the explorers' stories were heard, a wave of sentimental tributes and bad poems was unleashed in their honour. Ironically, these primarily scientific endeavours made a greater impact on the British people's emotions than on their base of knowledge.

Not that there was any self-pity among those hardy enough to back Barrow's eccentric hunches. Although many of them met untimely ends—Franklin and his two ships disappeared in the Arctic in the 1840s, prompting a succession of highly-publicised but unsuccessful search parties—their journals remained models of positive thinking, says Fleming.

"Admittedly, they were never going to tell you they were shut scared from start to finish, but you would think there would be some greater intimations of mortality considering the danger of their missions. But the average age then was about 40, so death was around whether you went on Arctic expeditions or not."

Death came to Barrow in 1848, not for another 57 years would the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen discover the north-west passage, which he promptly declared to be useless. But Fleming insists that to focus on the results of Barrow's expeditions is to miss the point. "He filled so many maps on the globe, instigated so many dramatic events and stretched the known world to limits that would not be surpassed for half a century. Was that so bad?"



Prospectors on Humboldt Creek, including the author's son, Kenneth.

Panning for California Gold

By Amy Pyle

MALAKOFF DIGGINGS State Historic Park, California—My back basking on a sun-warmed rock, cool water tickling my toes, I have just begun to drift toward a daydream when the sharp rap of hammer on rock rushes me back to reality. It is the unmistakable sound of gold fever.

We are capping off a long weekend of camping in Northern California's Gold Country. Here, on the banks of the South Yuba River, while we swim, skip stones and picnic, a family on the opposite shore digs up great handfuls of mud, hunches over sand-filled pans and searches the boulders for quartz rocks to smash. The youngest boy, no older than our 8-year-old, seems to be the designated smasher.

They have been bitten by the gold bug and so, for an afternoon, were we. My husband, Bob, my two sons and I drove up from Sacramento on Saturday morning, an easy 1-hour trek out Interstate 80 to California 49, the Mother Lode Highway. Back-seat whines of "I'm hungry" coincided with our arrival at the Nevada City Brewery, a picturesque stone building where beer was first brewed during the Gold Rush.

Our destination was Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park in Nevada County. California's largest hydraulic mining operation from the mid-1860s until a federal judge halted the erosion in 1884. The rugged white and red cliffs left behind by water-blasting mountains to their rock-and-gravel core provide a dual lesson in geology and environmental devastation fueled by economic incentive. They also are undeniably beautiful.

What attracted us to Malakoff were simpler considerations: the promise of a small but comfortable campsite (flush toilets!) and a partially restored ghost town to explore. I had discovered Malakoff—named for a Russian Fort that once stood near Sebastopol—by surfing the Internet on a great new site created by Eoghann Press, which can be accessed through <http://www.smartpages.com>.

Though the site warned that the final two miles to pine and manzanita-studded Chute Hill campground are via gravel road, we were delighted to discover that it recently has been paved.

The campsite is open year-round, though it sometimes becomes inaccessible in the winter because of snow. Through mid-November, daytime temperatures usually remain pleasant—in the 60s and 70s—though at night it can get down to freezing. There also are a few simple cabins available through the park reservation service.

Our tent up and sleeping bags unrolled, we hopped back in the car to register at park headquarters, housed in one of the restored ghost town buildings that catered to the 1,700 former residents of boomtown North Bloomfield. The back room is a museum with a hydraulic mining model, complete with squirting water, that captivated my sons. During the summer months the park provides gold-panning tours, but pans can be checked out for free at the museum, open on weekends year-round.

Ranger Ken Huie took us down to the shores of Humboldt Creek—incorrectly named by some unlucky

miners; it really did have gold although they didn't find it—and waded in to demonstrate his technique for separating gold from river silt: 1) Fill your pan with mud dug from the banks, below the water line. 2) Add water and swirl while pulling out large pebbles and twigs. 3) Shake, shake, jiggle, jiggle, tilt, pour until you get down to black sand. 4) Examine closely for the glint of gold.

Huie made it look so easy, depositing a dozen or so flakes into glass vials we had purchased at park headquarters for our boys. As he left, he cautioned us to return the pans by 5 p.m., when the museum closes. Preposterous advice, we thought, that's nearly two hours away. But with practice we began to improve, and the false promise of large bits of shiny mica—fool's gold—spurred us on. Suddenly it was nearly 5 and we were muddy and hungry, with but a few more specks in our vials.

Back at camp, I began preparing our dinner of grilled steak and potatoes baked in the coals. Bob made a 20-minute dash to the only nearby store—Mother Truckers—which takes its solitary responsibility seriously, stocking everything from sun-tan lotion to sunflower sprouts. He returned with two essentials we had neglected to pack: insect repellent and red wine.

Sunday morning we woke to blue skies and opted to hike the mile or so down the hill to North Bloomfield. We watched the 20-minute video about hydraulic mining. We wandered through the restored town, peeking in the windows of the pharmacy, the saloon and the general merchandise store filled with bolts

of gingham, stacks of folded overalls, saddles and teapots, rope, lanterns and pitchforks. It is all so realistic that our kids wanted to know if we could have lunch there.

Back at camp that evening, just as we finished toasting marshmallows for s'mores, a rustling in the bushes drew our attention to a small doe passing by. We wished on the first few stars and headed to bed, waking later to the sound of owls hooting in harmony and a full moon so bright you could read by it.

In the morning, we packed up camp and headed on down North Bloomfield Road past the ghost town to the nearest river and a sliver of the state's newest park—South Yuba River State Park—a patchwork of parcels that leapfrog along 20 miles of the waterway, through federal and private lands. Other sections of the park include the wheelchair-accessible Independence Trail and the world's longest single-span covered bridge at Bridgeport.

We hiked part of the way out a trail that follows the west flank of the river for four miles, returning by midday to the flat rocks under the bridge for our picnic and swim.

At first we were amused by how obsessed our fellow river-users were with their pursuit of gold. They were barely enjoying the water! They hardly ever looked up at the scenery! They didn't even see that hawk! Then we found ourselves watching closely. They seem to be opening their vials a lot, don't they? I wonder how they know which rocks to smash?

"You know," Bob said, "maybe we should've bought a gold pan."

Olga Bseiso

Her home is an art museum

Lubna Khader
Star staff writer

FULL OF exquisite artifacts, the home of Olga Bseiso looks more like a museum than a house. Oil paintings, burnt wood and glass paintings are only some of the items which are on display inside Mrs Bseiso's lavish residence. She is originally from Russia but has been living in Jordan for many years.

Olga earned an MA in Engineering in 1981, and studied at the Moscow National University of Fine Art where she participated in numerous exhibitions. Private collection of her works are available in Jordan, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Malaysia, and between 1988 to 1994 she has held more than 19 exhibitions around the world.

As you walk into the living room, you are immediately struck by the quality of her works, especially those pertaining to the late Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al Ali. They captivate your attention as they reflect a unique artistry in the way they are carved.

When visitors first enter the living room the initial impression they have is of standing in a fair. Everything comes running to your imagination: oil paintings of natural landscape, wooden handicrafts, small wooden traditional dolls and glass paintings are all made in the Islamic mosaic tradition.

But there are lots more to see. She for instance, turned her balcony into a small beautiful garden that includes paintings from Russia and Jordan.

In another section of the house you will notice rich collections of traditional Russian *Maerichka*—toys made of the same limewood which she used in other works. The artist prefers this kind of wood because it can be used for many other purposes. Moreover, it is strong and absorbs paint rapidly.

Talking about the toys, she says they are made from fixed traditional Russian designs, that can't be changed. However, the only thing I do is change the features of the faces by painting the first line of these faces, then color them," Mrs



O.Bseiso

Bseiso said. But Olga Bseiso has another hobby—painting on glass. "The first thing I do is choose the shape of glassware, a vase, a window, or a glass door, then I paint the first lines and color them," Mrs Bseiso said that this takes from one week to a month.

Furthermore, the artist is skillful in making Palestinian folklore embroidery, and there is a story behind this. "Once I wanted to buy a folklore dress but I couldn't find a dress that suited me. So I decided to learn embroidery, and I made the dress myself," she added.



Olga Bseiso



Stitch-in-time

Widad Qawar through the looking glass

By Ghassan Jaha
Special to The Star

WOMEN'S COSTUMES of Palestine and Jordan have long traditions. It was not until the 1920s, when political events accelerated and finally destroyed a nation, that these traditions began to lose their importance, as they were not part of a social structure any more. Costumes, however, are different in cut, fabric, and embroidery.

You can still find the Palestinian embroidery shaped in cross stitch and couching, whilst in Jordan the wave stitch is still known as "daughter of the needle."

Although conditions changed,

embroidery is still an on-going tradition. Many old, and some of the younger women, continue to wear the embroidered dress, usually known as *thob*, though the patterns have changed from those often used in the region they originally came from. It is increasingly common among women who usually wear dresses in European style to have traditional embroidered costumes for their weddings.

Widad Qawar well-known in Jordan for her collection of old *thobs* and silver jewelry, started to collect old Palestinian costumes whenever she found them, mostly from their owners, and in order to document them.

"After the 1948 war, village

culture in Palestine was dispersed and replaced by a new cheaper machine embroidery. Also hand-woven textiles were replaced by the mechanized synthetic fabrics," she tells *The Star*.

Visiting her house in the Fifth Circle, you will be astonished by her rich collection. She worked and doubled her efforts to preserve the costumes and their accessories. "At first, I collected whatever was beautiful, but later on I began to collect in a more organized and scientific way. I started collecting according to areas and periods of time," Mrs Qawar adds.

Her hometown of Bethlehem came to serve as a fashion and weaving center for southern Palestinian embroidery. The nature of the works stunned her very eyes.

She used to frequent regularly the old city market, that catered for all the surrounding villages that needed textiles, threads, trimmings and embroidered pieces made by women and put for sale.

"Each Saturday, women used to crowd in the Bethlehem bazaar, as the beautiful tableaux were enriched by them, and I fell in love with their costumes," she stresses "this image remained in my mind."

After finishing elementary school, Widad Qawar moved to Ramallah with her family, where she joined the Friends Quaker College. The city was better known as the center for north Palestine's fashion and weaving industry. Like with Bethlehem, she became fully acquainted with the patterns of Ramallah.

During summer, her family often visited the nearby villages. On one occasion she obtained two old costumes, one was an old bridal garment. In the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, many villagers became homeless.

Qawar felt that Palestinian culture was in danger and she set upon preserving that rich heritage.

Mrs Qawar, who prefers to be called a "heritage collector," has costumes dating back to the 1850s; today she has more than 800 items. She now wants to redress the Arab image.

Most of the research on Palestinian costumes has focused

on the elaborate garments made by the *fellaheen* (peasants) for weddings and special occasions. In general, urban clothing was influenced by Turkish and European fashions. During the Ottoman period, urban dwellers wore Turkish dresses. The rise of European fashion influenced people to adopt western style outfits that was modified by climate and social traditions.

Moving to Amman, Mrs Qawar fell in love with Jordanian costumes, that represented regions such as Salt, Irbid and Ma'an. However, during the 1950s, the varied costumes of Palestine and Jordan began to lose their distinctive character and came to look alike.

"Through my interviews with the owners of *thobs*, I got to know more about the costumes and started to see the beauty of the simple daily costume and its function," Widad Qawar later came to know about the accessories that were made with the costumes, like belts, shawls, head-caps, jewelry and others.

Jordanian costumes are spectacular, unique and very interesting. Initially, Widad had a great deal of difficulty in obtaining them. However, she soon realized that the only way to do so is by learning more about the old costumes before they disappear as a result of



Models displaying some of Widad Qawar's clothing

wove and dyed some of their fabrics, as the majority were usually bought in the towns or direct from the various weaving centers in Palestine.

Women would then assemble the garment and decorate it in the style of their region or town. The style of clothing worn by *fellaheen* women was established by regional preferences and local social factors. *Fellaheen* costumes consisted of the (basic dress) *thob*, pants '*libas*', jacket '*jubbah*', and coat '*jilayeh*'.

Decoration on the *thob* was concentrated mainly on the square chest panel, the cuffs and top of the sleeves, along with vertical panels running down the dress from waist level.

Unlike Bedouin women, the *fellaheen* didn't veil their face except on their wedding day.

Mrs Qawar has participated in many exhibitions, both in Jordan and abroad, though her unique collection was mostly shown in Europe and Japan.

She has produced catalogues and books in full color to document her collection. Despite this she says the collection is so

large that it is becoming a handful to take care of. "There is not enough space available to keep the whole collection together," she said. In addition to that people ask her to borrow the collection all the time which she says can create a lot of problems.

As the years pass by, Mrs Qawar is anxious about the fate of her old items.

There are no public institutions in Jordan which are ready to take on the role or even the initial step of forming a trust, or a special foundation that would look after these special and rare items.

"I am appealing to public institutions, such as the Ministry of Antiquities or other related departments, to give me a hand in documenting the whole collection which is a national treasure, that can't be found anywhere else in the world," she adds.

Many pieces have been around for generations. Mrs Qawar's collection is getting larger and larger, covering the last 100 years. It is a source of preserving the past for the upcoming generations. ■



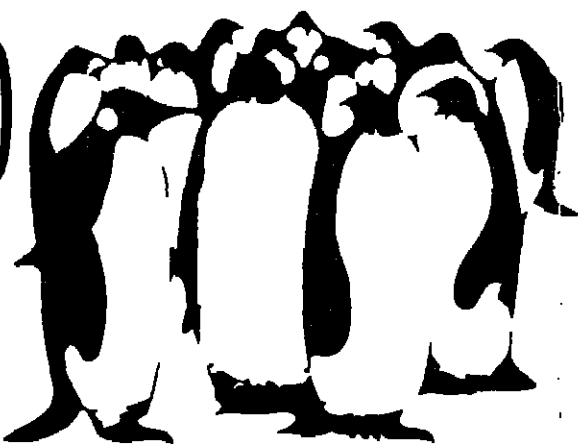
Part of an exhibition held in Paris last year

modernization.

By the turn of the century, costumes of Palestinian men and women were made of very

simple design and similar in style to that worn by people throughout the Arab world. Historically, both the Bedouins and

fellaheen made their costumes. While Bedouin women usually bought their garment fabrics ready-made, *fellaheen* women

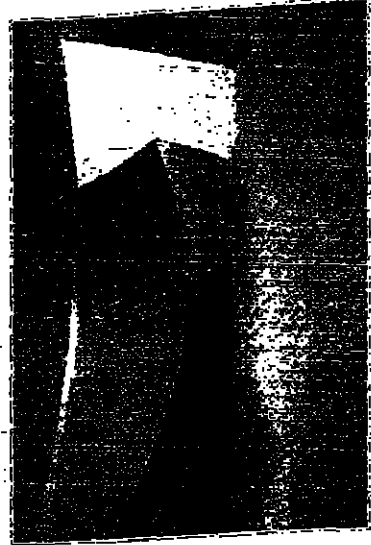
AROUND
TOWNSpanish architecture
in Amman

UNDER THE patronage of the Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality, Nidhal Al Hadid, a photo exhibition of Modern Spanish Architecture was opened at the Instituto Cervantes on 27 October.

The public event, which is organized with the cooperation of the Spanish Embassy in Amman, spotlights some fine pieces of architecture. Spanish architecture is one of the most distinc-

tive in the world because of its proliferation.

In the search for other alternatives to the modern development of architecture, the Spanish model has sought to preserve traditional heritage. Spanish architecture is just one of the many faces that is forming the fabric of the global architectural culture. The current exhibit continues until 6 November.

OFF THE
WALLChoose
happiness,
or lose it

By Rana Haddad
Special to The Star

WHY IS everyone so unhappy? Why aren't we satisfied with who we are, where we are, and with what we are doing? Simple things can easily fire us up and make us lose our temper. Yet, there is a simple cure for all these ailments: the smile. Smiling is seriously underrated, and I recommend that everyone should practice this art. It will make the world a lot less complicated.

A close friend of mine told me the other day that he would be willing to pay any price, just so long as he could leave this country. My dear friend, a move to another country will not change the way you lead your life. You begin the change inside: open your heart to life, and live in peace with yourself and with those around you.

I was once asked by a dear friend whether or not I had seen a sunrise. I replied that I had not. "You are missing out on a marvelous thing," he added. The other day, I decided to get out of my warm bed (a very hard thing to do, because it is so comfortable at that time of the day), and watch the sunrise. I learnt a great lesson that day. The sun will always rise, and on seeing it you can only think how wonderful life really is. This is a lesson that we all need to learn.

We all need to live in peace and to try and enjoy our lives. After all, we only live once. Don't allow things to offend you. Whenever one of your colleagues or friends mocks you, return the compliment and laugh together. Don't take the bait and lose your temper. You may think that there is nothing in this world to give encouragement, but you are so wrong. I know that the economic and political circumstances are not exactly thriving at the moment, but will looking sad everyday help to improve matters? The simple answer is no. You must want to live, and enjoy everything that comes your way, and only then will your life get easier.

I'd like to thank Jordan Television for making me laugh and smile. The new series of the General Manager makes me go to my bed with a smile on my face. Instead of crying at the many bureaucratic mishaps, the program makes us laugh at them.

Let us all help one another in our lives. Let's stop the criticism and the ridicule. Promise me, once you have read this article, that you will smile more often. Like the sunrise, it can make someone's day.

The Star
Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

http://star.
arabia.com

Surat Al Ard

A homage to Jerusalem

By Kofi Attah
Special to The Star

HOW AN artist depicts his homeland can be very problematic, especially so when you have been displaced from the land of your birth. Considering all the turmoil that Palestine has been subjected to, it is a miracle how the spirit of Palestinian art continues to be so strong.

The late Palestinian artist, Zulfia Al Sa'di, set the scene in 1933 with an exhibition that became a symbol of inspiration for all his compatriots. Her works gave birth to a new generation of artists, both within Palestine and outside.

Kamal Boullata belongs to this new generation of Palestinian artists: a generation born into one culture, but who have been forced to live their lives and art in another.

His exhibition at Darat Al Funun's main gallery, titled Surat Al Ard, is part of a wider display of Palestinian art called 'Homage to Jerusalem', which attempts to review the accomplishments and developments of the arts in Palestine during the last 50 years. The exhibition features '12 lanterns for Granada' in section one, and '12 series of acrylic paintings' in section two.

The works of Boullata echoes the voices of all his people in the wilderness. His chosen medium of expression, whether consciously or subconsciously, reflects the forces that binds the Palestinian people together, forming their social, cultural, political and economic ideology and identity.

The title of his exhibition—Surat Al Ard—is the Arabic title that was used in the Middle Ages for the Rock of Noble Sanctuary in Jerusalem (The Dome of the Rock), and its literal translation means 'the navel of the earth'. The title conveys his message, and deciphers the artist's hidden message—the effect that his displacement has had on him, and the resulting divided affection between the love of his native city of Jerusalem—the capital of Palestine—and his admiration for land of abode, Granada in Spain.

Boullata is keen on history, which has influenced his works greatly. "I cannot help but think that Sophronius may have been the first native in the city of my birth; he realized that the road to Jerusalem is in the hearts of



every man, and it is only after you have renounced what you love, that you can best hope to recreate it," Boullata adds.

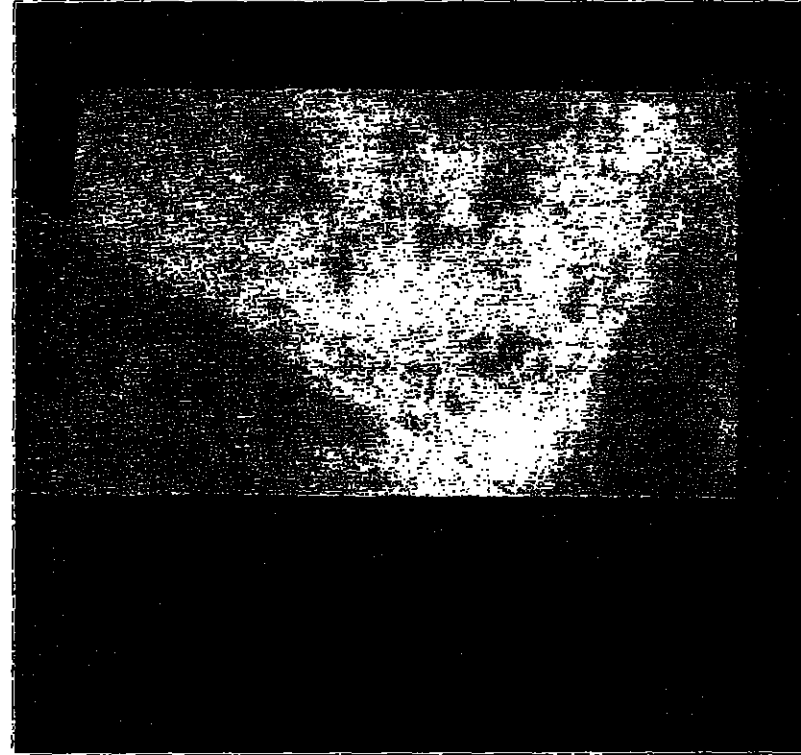
As a tribute to Sophronius, he starts the series of 12 paintings with a piece titled 'Homage to Sophronius', an acrylic on canvas, which he painted in 1997, using a blaze of blues, yellows, browns and grays. In the same section, the viewer can see more paintings exploring the abstract links between Islamic decoration, patterns and geometry.

Geometry is the central theme to his works on display in the adjacent hall—the '12 series of acrylic paintings'—which also shine with vibrancy. In the main hall, he displays the silkscreens he made to accompany Adoni's poem—'12 lanterns for Granada'. The silkscreens are named after the four rivers of heaven—Bisan, Dija, Jaihun and Fural, and they give the visitor an intense feeling of expectation.

The viewer is greeted by a book displayed in a glass case, and the beautifully folded is visually stunning, and guaranteed to catch the eye of the viewer.

Boullata explores the thoughts in his mind freely, and the result is images of innovative and inspirational quality. "Both my paintings and writings have, in my case, been the twin products of my memory," Boullata says.

His childhood memories are torn between Jerusalem and Andalusia. The



region in southern Spain was under Arab rule for 700 years, and it became a centre of learning for Arab and Spanish writers, scholars and artists. The spirit of Andalusia is still reflected in the minds of contemporary Arab scholars, poets and artists, and will always serve as a source of inspiration for the future generations.

Like many 20th century Arab artists, Kamal Boullata relives the Andalusian era through his art, cherishing its rich Arab/Islamic culture.

He endeavors to bring back to life this lost legacy, and the central room of the main hall is devoted to Granada, a town in southern Spain rich with the Andalusian spirit.

He evokes this glorious and splendid past in a colophony booklet, two hand cut books, which have been printed by hand. This is accompanied with shining silkscreens, inspired by the architecture of the Al Hambra Palace in Granada. Boullata draws the attention of his audience further with a cardboard box, also handmade, which is covered with evocatively coloured and

skillfully made geometric designs carved out of pure wood. The box thus becomes the treasure house to hold all the books, and can be folded and transformed into a gift box. Many diplomats from the UN have had the honour of being presented with one.

Boullata was born in Jerusalem in 1942, and went on to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome between 1964-65. In his lifetime, he has spent time in Washington and Morocco, but today works and lives in Menton, southern France.

His series of 12 paintings and 12 lanterns of Granada have two different approaches, but the message soon becomes clear: his return to his Arab and Islamic roots. His work is independent from the cultures of the East and West, and 'Surat Al Ard' represents many noble thoughts, with patriotism and nationalism at the forefront.

The exhibition is on display at the main hall at Darat Al Funun, Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, in Jabal Al Weibdeh, and will run until Thursday 12 November.

Artist's focus on men's suits

By Richard O'Mara

BALTIMORE—She has men in her life, lots of them. They've been around a long time. They lurk upstairs in her paint-spattered studio, downstairs in the living room. They lean against the wall, the piano. They are men in suits, at desks, men on horses.

They are big. They dwell within a narrow band of colors, one overlapping the other. They have no faces because she has decided faces are unnecessary to what she has been trying to do with them.

This Ruth Pettus tried to explain in an "artist's statement" earlier this year: "Initially I was drawn to the image of men wearing suits because the simple, dark shape was exciting as an abstract form. In all my work I mean to convey the physicality of the figure, its essential identity, its essential purpose," she added.

"Originally," she said recently, "people would think it was sort of a critique, just very anti-men, being a woman artist. When are you going to paint women in suits?" they'd ask. It's just a painting," sighs the Baltimore painter in the LA Times-Washington Post News Service. The men-in-suits pictures, when they first appeared in the mid-'80s, brought Pettus some attention around town. They showed up in nonconventional art venues: restaurants and a bookstore. They'd had an interesting genesis.

Pettus was in London in 1984, pushing her young son around the British Museum, in the same corridors her mother used to drag her and her two brothers and two sisters through, force-feeding them all high culture. She came across some large studies by

Raphael, images that were to be woven into a tapestry. It was a line of men in togas. "I just thought that today they'd be men in suits. Then I thought that would be an interesting exercise."

Fourteen years later, she's still exercising. Pettus says she doesn't care what people think about her paintings, but she is mildly defensive when questioned about her continuing preoccupation with the same theme. "There are many artists who use the same thing over and over again. Matisse used women over and over. Rodin used the human form three-dimensionally over and over."

So she asks. Why can't I use men? Men in suits? Men without suits?

Furthermore, her men are evolving: They are bigger than ever. These new men, Pettus says, "are the most simplified, the colors the most limited" in the 14 years she's explored them. They are all set within deeply textured horizons and terrains that are as distinctive as the primary images themselves.

This heavy texture is intentional, but results as well from her practice of painting over existing works that fail to sell. A large painting she's working on now titled "Three Men" has "six or seven" finished paintings beneath, she says. It's likely that anybody who buys a Pettus canvas is buying more than one picture.

Pettus is 40, tall and slender, naturally thin and not beaten down by diets. She has fresh skin of the sort that gives a little pink on the ridges of the facial bones, short hair that is frequently unkempt, with tiny patches missing here and there as a consequence of radiation treatment she had about 13 years ago for a brain tumor. She wears glasses and

moved to the arid modernity of Canberra, Australia.

It was in Australia, in high school, that Pettus made a vague decision to be an art restorer and began to take art history courses. They lighted up her imagination. "I wanted to be involved in art," is how she puts it. "Not making it, but learning about it, or taking care of it."

This taste for art flowered in Australia, but its seed was planted back in England, in the unexpecting mind of a young girl who had just discovered horses.

"All I was interested in was horse-flesh," she recalls. "All I wanted to do was ride the horses, muck the horses, take care of the horses."

Not entirely sympathetic to this obsession, her mother sent her and her sister and two brothers off on museum tours. Mum gave quizzes, had them draw things they saw in the museums.

Pettus remembers once seeing an exhibit of Pierre Bonnard's paintings in the National Gallery and being told to copy one. They were all nudes, except for one of flowers. Her sister glued onto that one.

"None of us wanted to paint a nude. We were 10, for God sakes! So I painted a nude. I was so embarrassed. My mother hung it on the wall."

In Australia, at the University of Sydney, Pettus studied art from slides. Then the family moved to Washington, and again she came into proximity to the real thing. Her mother

began introducing her to restorers, and others involved with the preservation of works of art.

But Ruth, now 19 and not always one to go along, fled to Greece, where she "started to draw"—landscapes and people in the villages. She returned five months later determined to study painting.

This she did under painter Leon Berkowitz, who motivated her to undertake a degree program at the Corcoran Gallery.

She lasted one semester. "It was so dull. It was awful! Awful!"

She decided she needed to study art from a different perspective: as its object. She became a model. She posed at venues in Washington and in Baltimore.

All this time—about three years—she was doing her own work, encouraged by people who saw something special in the young artist. Among these was Alex Di Santo, a framer.

Di Santo met Pettus in Washington when she was 21, in 1979. They lived there together for a while and had a son, Max, born 16 years ago.

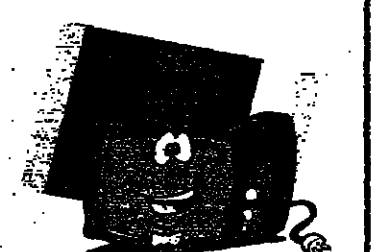
At the time they met, she was interested in the abstract painters of the 1950s. Di Santo recalls. "All her paintings were large and abstract. She moved to Baltimore looking for more studio space. I followed a year later. (Today, he and Pettus live separately, but they have been raising Max together.)

"After she came to Baltimore, she still painted abstract paintings until she got the idea about the men in suits," Di Santo recalled. "They were very much Baltimore men. She went off on that and never came off it."



smiles readily, when there is reason to, not reflexively.

She was born in New Zealand, close to Wellington, but before she was a year old, her parents moved to London. Her mother was English; her father an American foreign-service officer. She grew up in London, at least to age 14, then the family

ON
THE
BOX

A look into Chicago Hope

By Ibtihal Ahmed
Special to The Star

THE SOUND of sirens and the sight of emergency rooms and operating theaters is not totally new on Jordan Television. JTV audiences have been introduced to this kind of drama in the previous medical series, 'ER'. However, 'Chicago Hope' concentrates on another side of the medical community, for it digs deep in the emotions and social situations of its doctors.

The series makes viewers realize that doctors are human beings too, who have private lives that can sometimes be affected by their dedication to work. While viewers know that privacy is essential, they also feel that the doctors should be to their patients. The television drama deals with this issue very professionally. Most of the doctors for example, put their work before their private lives—most end up losing their loved ones.

Chicago Hope is supposed to have some of the best doctors in the world, but they are not immune to illness; they are fallible, afraid at times and nervous at others. It is true these doctors perform miracles when they save the lives of dying patients, but they too need to be saved at certain points in their lives. This human side of the doctors has not been adequately portrayed on television, which makes Chicago Hope a pioneering project that continues to captivate. For we as the audience need to know more about the doctors who are expected to perform miracles.

Doctors are subjected to a tremendous amount of stress every day. This is especially so in emergency, and in cases involving life and death situations, like operating on patients with AIDS or performing open heart surgery. Yet we always expect doctors to be in control. Audiences tend to sympathize with these doctors because it is not only the life of the patients that are at stake here, but also the lives of the surgeons.

The program also concentrates on the moral aspect of the medical profession. In one instance, the issue of euthanasia is brought to the forefront. Can it be considered as mercy killing or is it murder? Who is to decide that someone else's life should be terminated?

The show also discusses many other controversial topics as well. It deals with experimenting on animals, and whether doctors should be allowed to transplant animal organs into human beings.

One of the interesting points is the involvement of the law in some of the hospital's issues, showing viewers that doctors are not above the law, and that they have to abide by the decisions of the courts, even if they have the patients' best interest at heart. Chicago Hope gives Jordanians a glimpse of other people's lives, and an idea about the daily life of doctors in a busy US hospital.

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ Paintings by 18 artists from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon at the Al Mashriq Gallery, Shingesi. It continues until 1 November.

■ An exhibition of masterworks by the Spanish Contemporary Architecture continues until 6 November at the Instituto Cervantes.

■ The Darat Al Funun, is currently showing numerous artworks by the Palestinian artists, Kamal Boullata and the late Zulfia Al Sa'di. The exhibition, which also features photos by the Palestinian-American photographer Saeed Nuseibah, will last until 12 November.

Films

■ The American Center is showing Broadcast News, starring William Hurt and Holly Hunt, today 29 October, at 5 pm.

Workshop

■ The British Council is currently holding a

number of workshops, discussing Modern English Literature. On 2 November, the Home and Away Local Influences and Commonwealth Colour, will be reviewed at the auditorium between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Seminars

■ Two lectures on the subject of romantic novels will take place on the same day this week, and will be delivered by V.A. Gonzales Quesada, at the Instituto Cervantes. They can be heard on 3 November. The first will be about the gypsies, whilst the other lecture will talk about the criollo stories.

■ The Faculty of Arts, at the University of Jordan, will host a lecture in Arabic by Dr Hikmat Abdul Majid Allawi, on 4 November. The seminar, which is held in cooperation with Instituto Cervantes, will discuss the works of Pio Bajora, the well-known Spanish artist.

The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 31 October—6 November

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Animals (Cartoon)
3:30—Neighbors (Drama)
4:00—Neighbors (Drama)
4:30—Peer Pressure (Doc.)
5:00—French Prog.
6:00—Wind at my back
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Murphy Brown
8:00—Sirens
9:15—ABC of Democracy
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Film:
12:00—Twisted

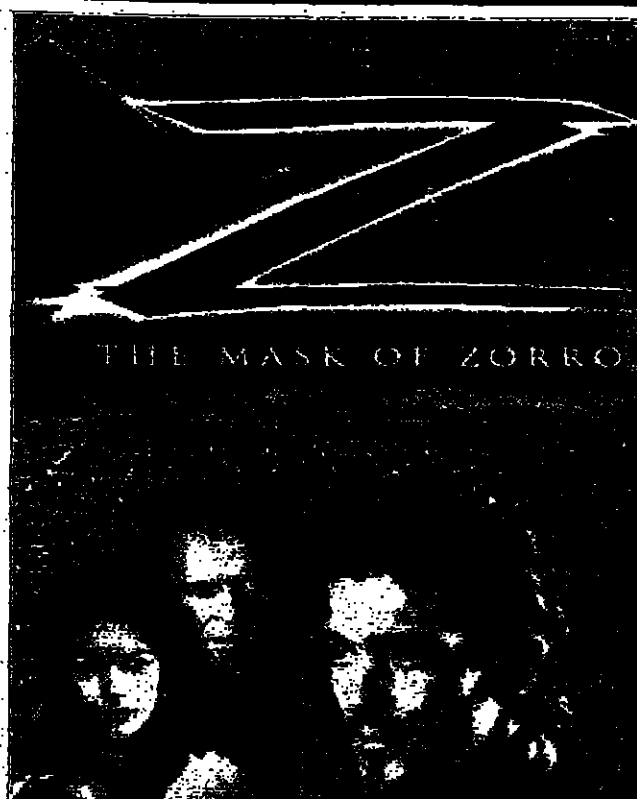
SUNDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Pink Panther (Cart.)
3:20—Pumpkin Patch
3:30—The Adventures of the Black Stallion
4:00—Discover The Wild Animals
4:30—Vid Kids
5:00—NBA
6:00—French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Brittas Empire
8:00—French Program
8:30—Rescue
9:05—Farming & Ecology
9:30—Behind the Scenes
10:00—News in English
10:30—Veronica Clare
11:30—Doogie Howser

MONDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Batman (Cartoon)
3:30—The Golem from Down Under (Drama)
4:00—Neighbors (Drama)
4:30—Last Frontiers (Doc.)
5:00—French Program
6:00—Wind At My Back

THE MASK OF ZORRO



Cinema, Cinema, Cinema on Friday at 5:00 pm.

7:00—News in French
7:15—French Program
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Parenthood
8:00—The Internet Cafe
8:30—Big Sky
9:10—Encounter
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Veronica Clare

TUESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—French Cartoon
3:30—Bananas in Pyjamas
4:00—Life Choices (Doc.)
4:30—Small Talk

WEDNESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran



Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 4634149): The Boxer
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 4634149): Rob Roy
- Galleria I (Tel: 079 33430): Saeedi At The American University (Arabic)
- Galleria II (Tel: 079 33430): Saeedi At The American University (Arabic)
- Plaza (Tel: 5699238): Saeedi At The American University (Arabic)
- Concord I (Tel: 5677420): The Game
- Concord II (Tel: 5677420): Up Close & Personal

3:10—The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin
3:30—Halfway Across The Galaxy & Turn Left
4:30—Masters Of The Nazes
5:00—French Program
6:15—Wind At My Back
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Two Point Children
8:00—Envoy Special
8:30—Kung-Fu
9:10—Great Moments Of Science & Technology
9:30—Faces & Places
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Chicago Hope
12:00—Bugs (Drama)

THURSDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Superman (Cartoon)
3:30—Sliders (Drama)
4:00—Life On The Digital Edge
5:00—French Program
6:15—Sparks
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Family Matters
8:00—Great Romances of the 20th Century
8:30—Dr Quinn Medicine Woman (Drama)
9:10—Oprah Winfrey
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Film:
12:00—The Boys (Comedy)

FRIDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Swiss Family Robinson
3:30—Treasure Hunt
4:00—French Film
6:15—The Simpsons
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines

7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Cinema, Cinema
8:30—Babylon 5
9:10—Everyman
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—The X Files (Drama)
11:10—The Halifax

PROGRAMMES

EN FRAN AIS

SAMEDI

17:00—Fant pas réver
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine
L'ent de Colomb

DIMANCHE

18:00—Bonne espérance
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E-M6

LUNDI

17:00—Thalassa
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine scientifique

MARDI

18:00—Les cœurs brûlés
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine

MERCREDI

17:00—Ushuaia
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E-M6
20:00—Envoyé spécial

JEUDI

16:00—L'école des fans
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine
L'ent de Colomb

VENDREDI

18:15—Fort Boyard
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Allô la Terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Top Corner

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
FOR LIFE
ON VIDEO



COLLECT THEM ALL

Top 10 Tapes

- There is something about Mary
- The Negotiation
- Rush Hour
- Mask of Zorro
- Blade
- "Friends" Series
- Saving Private Ryan
- Sliding Doors
- The Avengers
- Snake Eyes

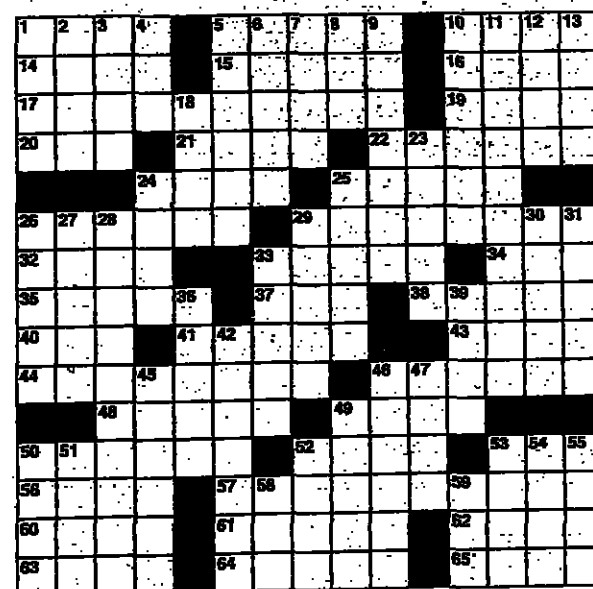
Top 10 Original

- Titanic
- Fallen
- Seven years in Tibet
- Jackal
- Fifth Element
- Tomorrow Never Dies
- Scream
- Devil's Advocate
- Amistad
- Mouse Hunt

VIDEO PLAZA

4th Circle opposite Belgium Embassy, Tel. 5930054
Open daily from 12:00 — 9:30

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Mongolian
5 Chew upon
10 Sid lit
14 Hot place
15 Houston
16 Hindu
17 prince
19 Under
20 Have debts
21 Thai
22 Gnat-cutting
23 Implement
24 Cautious
25 Camrove
26 Supplies
27 Leading
32 Persuade
33 profundo
34 Fused sound
35 Pith helmet
36 vac

DOWN
1 Timber wolf
2 Declare
3 Deal out
4 insect
5 New tide on the block
6 Step
7 Came down
8 Guys
9 Adjust
10 Kind of bullet
11 In unbroken
12 Blue dye
13 Fair attraction
14 General
15 Bendy
16 Gussied to get
17 The Way We
18 Dress up
19 Sheep shelter
20 Sun-dried
21 Some comedians
22 Drying ovens
23 Mopar of
24 Spud
25 33 Drive
26 Arab chiefs
27 Lawman
28 Wyatt
29 Ussat
30 Slight smile, etc.
31 Jury groups
32 U.S.A. word
33 Name
34 Prison
35 Sandwich
36 type
37 zizz
38 Philippine tribesman
39 Speed
40 First person
41 Memorable
42 period
43 Distast

This Week's HOROSCOPES

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun is in Libra with the moon in Cancer. That could cause a bit of a stir, so watch out.

Aries (March 21-April 19). These are slightly difficult times, with problems at home demanding attention. Definitely put fun aside.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Your stresses get worse before they get better, as you face a work-related decision.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Don't throw your money around. You'll feel better if you save it. Study ways to make your sweetheart happy.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You're powerful, although you're still running into problems. Someone doesn't want to mind you. Make your point now.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Pressure could get uncomfortable. Others will jump to do your bidding. Get practical and you can generate more income.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Friends can help you solve a financial dilemma by giving you advice, rather than a loan. Just do what you're told and you'll make your life a lot easier.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Mind an older person and you'll make valuable points. Help out with a team effort and you'll make points there, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Let a foreigner into your heart. Find out what an older person wants so you can provide it. Check things off your list.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Count your money, including money you can borrow from other people. You may get a good opportunity to do something you've always wanted.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're facing a challenge at work, but you can rise to the occasion. Help an older person make up his or her mind and you could win the promotion.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Travel is good, so you really ought to be on vacation. If you still have a couple of things to do, finish them off.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). A very attractive person is watching you right now, but take care. This new attraction could conflict with something or somebody who's already in your life.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your assignment is to learn to please others. You can do it. You're a natural negotiator. Friends teach you to let out your natural talent, and coach you when that gets scary. Hard work plus love equals great accomplishments. Your heart's in the right place; now put in a plan for action.

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Bridge

What The Eye Sees.

By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 9 5
♥ K 6 3
♦ K Q 9 5 2
♣ K 4

WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ Q J 10
♦ J 10 8
♣ Q 10 7 3

EAST
♠ K 10
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ 6 3
♣ J 9 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ 9 7 4
♦ A 7 4
♣ A 5

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♠
Pass 2♠ Pass 2♠
Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

It is easier for declarer to make a deceptive play than for the defenders. The declarer sees all the offensive resources; each defender knows only half the combined assets. Therefore, a defensive falsecard runs the risk of fooling partner, and that can prove expensive. But there are some defensive deceptive plays that run no such risk, and many of those are obligatory. Here is a classic example.

After South made a fourth-seat opening bid, a routine auction led to the spade game. With 14 high-card points, including three aces, South had an easy raise once partner showed support.

West led the queen of hearts, and the defenders quickly raked in three tricks in the suit to complete their book. West then shifted to the jack of diamonds, won on the table.

Declarer's problem was obvious — to bring in the trump suit without losing a spade trick. After some thought South elected to play East for spade shortage and led a low spade from dummy. Had East routinely followed with the ten, the hand would have been over in a second. Declarer would have finessed the queen, followed with the ace, and claimed the rest when the king dropped.

However, East was aware that declarer had to have both minor-suit aces for proceeding to game, and that the setting trick, if any, would have to come from trumps. Since playing the ten was tantamount to conceding the contract, the defender followed smoothly with the king! Declarer took the ace and thought for a while before deciding to accept the king at face value as a singleton. South led a low spade from hand and finessed the nine — down one!

Efforts by the NMC and the Winston Fun World seem to be endless in promoting young talented bands, to give the more exposure and raise their level of professionalism.

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOVEC
HESOW
CEITED
ABAANN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Answer: DIFFICULT TO DO WHEN YOUVE HAD ONE TOO MANY.

ANSWERS: COVER WHOSE DECEIT BANANA

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Words of Wisdom

Ability and need are more closely intertwined than we think.

He'll be the realization of truth too late.

Trust yourself, and you will be a hero.

The bad things we fear exceed by far the bad things there are.

A good reputation depends on endeavoring to be what you would like to be.

Talking isn't as good as doing, and doing isn't as good as doing well. Nothing is better than succeeding.

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Musical fun in Amman

EVENINGS IN Amman are notoriously quiet.... well, until the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation teamed up with the Winston Fun World at the Books@Cafe on 26 October, and rocked the city. More than 1000 young people came out to witness this event, the first of its kind in Jordan.

The event—a band contest that featured a competition between seven of the Kingdom's best groups. Contestants were the "Bricks," "Black Iris," "Ethereal," "Scarcrow," "X-Band," "Apple Bite" and "Coma." It was music and dancing everywhere.

Another highlight of the night was an amazing light and sound show which added to the upbeat spirit of fun. Amman was shining, hearts were beating, Mohamed Al Jazeera, known to us as Mo, was a great presenter, adding energy and suspense to a loaded contest.

Even though it was a competition, it seemed that everyone was winning something. Caps, CD's lighters, bandannas, you name it. In the end, while the crowd looked on enviously and cheered, finalists were chosen by a jury... and everybody won impressive jackets and trophies.

And though the competition was fierce, congratulations go to these four "Bricks," "Black Iris," "Ethereals," "X-Band" who will meet in the final showdown in yet another contest on the 23 November at the Hard Rock Cafe. A night of power music, real talent and lots of fun. Don't miss it! The fun has just begun!

Efforts by the NMC and the Winston Fun World seem to be endless in promoting young talented bands, to give the more exposure and raise their level of professionalism.

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The Star Stadium

Edited by Abdul Hamid Addasi

Jordan's Football League in turmoil



By Abdul Hamid Addasi
Special to the Star

Amman—Al Faisali's decision to withdraw from the Jordanian Football League, following a series of unfair decisions taken by the referee in the club's match against Al Qadisiyah this week has thrown the Jordan League into turmoil.

The decision to withdraw the club was taken by Sheikh Sultan Al Odwan, the club's President, at a press conference held after the match in question.

He said that Al Faisali will

only rejoin the league if the referee of the match is punished and Al Faisali is credited with the win.

The match ended goal-less, but the referee ruled against a goal scored by Al Faisali's striker, Jerius Tadrus, eight minutes from the end of the match.

At the time of writing, no official decision has been made by the Jordanian Football Federation on the match between Al Faisali and Qadisiyah.

Al Faisali were always the dominant force in Jordanian Football during the early years of the league. However, following the formation of Al Wihdat in 1976, the tables were turned, and now the league is always a battle between the two teams.

There have been calls to scrap the league anyway, in order to concentrate on the national team, who will be defending the title in the next Pan Arab Games, due to be held in Amman next year.

Jordan performed badly in the Arab Cup held in Doha last month, although a lot of the blame was put on the shoulders of the Yugoslavian coach Fokasheeh, who continually played players in the wrong

position. ■

against Al Wihdat, which was due to take place tomorrow, Friday. The match has been put back until the final week of the league, but this has not stopped the rumours circulating that the league may be postponed or even canceled.

Al Wihdat are leading the league at the moment, but are facing tough competition from Al Faisali. The match between the two teams is being billed as the title decider.

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position. ■

The Yankees take one as a team

SAN DIEGO—George Steinbrenner always understood star power. That's why he wanted to own the New York Yankees in the first place. That's why he wants Donald Trump and Billy Crystal in his box at Yankee Stadium. That's why he wanted Reggie and Canish, and Winfield.

Steinbrenner understands New York, the tabloids, how the game is played. Baseball has been harder for him. Steinbrenner's roots are in football, and understanding a sport that requires patience has been difficult. Yet, somewhere along the way, Steinbrenner got it. How else can one explain the 1998 Yankees, a wonderful blend of balance and teamwork and depth.

No Yankee hit 40 home runs, but ten Yankees hit at least ten. First baseman Tim Lincecum and right fielder Paul O'Neill drove in 100 runs, but nine others had at least 40. Only one Yankee, David Cone, won 20 games, but five others won at least ten.

Their tremendous young shortstop, Derek Jeter, may one day have a plaque in the Hall of Fame, but for the most part, the Yankees of 1998 were greater than the sum of their individual parts. In other words, they were a team. These Yankees might have been the best team in history, but except for Jeter and O'Neill, they were not the best at any single position.

"We deserve to be compared with

the greatest teams ever," Martinez said, "as when you play as well as we have for six months, we have to be considered among the best. It's like the Chicago Bulls. If you don't win it all, it's a disappointment. We won it all. No one can ever take it away from us."

They won more regular season games than any other American League team in history. Including the postseason, they won more games than any other team in any league. They were the first team to play 700 ball for the first four months of the season. They were the first team to hold a lead in 48 consecutive games.

They clinched a postseason berth and won their 100th game earlier than any other team in history, and they were the first Yankees team in 48 years to sweep the World Series.

"We've had an uncanny knack all year," Cone said. "When we need to pitch well, when we need to win 1-0 or 2-1, we get great pitching performances. When we need to score runs, it seems like we're able to match up and do that."

Is that character? Is it integrity? "It's a team that really picks each other up and pulls for each other. We sense when the starter is struggling, then we score runs. And vice versa."

This is not to sell their talent short. They did have the fourth-highest payroll in baseball. Bernie Williams won

the American League batting title. Jeter and O'Neill are legitimate all-stars. Cone, David Wells and Andy Pettitte each would be number one starters on some teams. Reliever Mariano Rivera was close to unhittable, especially in the postseason, when he strung together 13 1/3 shutout innings. However, because there's not one guy—a Ken Griffey Jr or a Barry Bonds—these Yankees must be viewed as a whole.

"This ballclub, they're going to take MVP votes away from each other," Manager Joe Torre said. "It's a great feeling for a manager to know when these guys come to the field, the only thing they're interested in is winning the game. They don't care who gets the winning hit."

The Yankees were Scott Brosius, who was voted World Series MVP a year after hitting .203 in Oakland. They were catcher Joe Girardi's heart and grit. They were unheralded relievers like Jeff Nelson and Mike Stanton. Throughout the season they had contributions from an array of players, from pitcher Hideki Irabu in April and May to rookie outfielder Shaop Spencer in September to rookie pitcher Orlando Hernandez in a huge American League Championship Series victory in Cleveland.

They are such a subtle blend of players performing at a high level that it's easy to see the Yankees not repeat-

ing. As the starting pitching is so good, the Yankees will be favored to win the World Series for the third time in four years.

But will Brosius drive in 98 runs for a second straight year? Will Hernandez and Wells and Irabu be as productive? If Williams departs via free agency, as he is expected to do, who will replace him? How does Steinbrenner keep the Yankees together? The departure of Williams seems a foregone conclusion. But Brosius and Cone also can become free agents. Girardi has spoken of going to a team that will allow him to catch every day. Can Rivera's arm hold up through another 54-appearance season?

The Yankees hope Darryl Strawberry can continue his career after having colon cancer surgery three weeks ago, but he probably won't be available until well into the regular season.

For the moment, the Yankees can celebrate their greatness before worrying about next season. Torre and Steinbrenner cried as they hugged one another as the clubhouse began to clear out.

"Thanks for trusting me with this club," Torre told Steinbrenner, who replied: "You're the best manager I've ever had. You deserve it."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Football Roundup

ITALIAN 1ST DIVISION MATCH REPORTS

Florentina (4) Salernitana (0)
Volatile Brazilian ace Edmundo was Florentina's hero after the team struggled against a Salernitana side that had defender Salvatore Monaco sent off after just 10 minutes. Giovanni Trapattoni's men finally broke the deadlock in the 50th minute with Edmundo heading home a cross from German midfielder Jörg Heinrich.

The Brazilian followed up by providing the pass for skipper Gabriel Batistuta's low drive past the Salernitana keeper and then scoring Florentina's third in the 89th minute after a skillful run. Batistuta completed the rout in injury time, his eighth league goal of the season keeping him the Serie A's top scorer.

AC Milan (3) Roma (2)
The place to be for drama was San Siro with five goals, two red cards, three shots against the woodwork and a missed penalty. Marco Del Vecchio, who hit the winner against Leeds United last Tuesday, continued his fine run of form by scoring in the ninth minute.

Milan's German ace, Oliver Bierhoff, had an equalizer disallowed in the 43rd minute, but Brazilian teammate Leonardo's strike in first-half injury time did count and made it 1-1. Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi, who saved a penalty last weekend, was the next to show his skills when he saved another spot-kick in the 50th minute from Roma striker Francesco Totti.

German defender Christian Ziege scored Milan's second in the 59th minute, seizing on a defensive mix-up, only for Delvecchio to smack a superb equalizer beneath the crossbar in the 70th minute. But Liberian George Weah, who said earlier in the week that he would rather leave Milan than play in his current position, rose to head home Croatian Zvonimir Boban's free-kick and earn a preciousvictory.

Totti nearly bagged an equalizer minutes later, when he hit the post with Rossi completely beaten the third time luckless Roma found the woodwork. Boban ensured a nail-biting finish by being sent off for a foul on Totti in the 82nd minute, while Roma's mid-field substitute Daniele Conti also got a red card in injury-time, barely 10 minutes after coming on.

Juventus (1) Inter Milan (0)
Juventus had Zinedine Zidane and Dutchman Edgar Davids sent off but still beat Inter Milan in Turin on Sunday night. Alessandro Del Piero scored the winner in the 88th minute, knocking in the rebound after Inter goal-



Action from the Bayern Munich versus Kaiserslautern game. Bayern were triumphant 4-0.

keeper Gianluca Pagliuca had parried his penalty.

The win moved the champions into second place in the Serie A but will cause trouble for Inter and coach Gigi Simoni, as it follows on the heels of last Sunday's humiliating 5-3 defeat to Lazio.

Lazio (1) Vicenza (1)
Marco Schenardi gave Vicenza a 30th minute lead but veteran striker Roberto Mancini snatched a 54th minute equalizer for the Italian Cup holders. Mancini, the most dangerous player in Lazio's 0-0 draw with Partizan Belgrade, pounced on a loose ball when Vicenza keeper Pierluigi Brivio failed to hold a ballistic free-kick from Croatian Sinisa Milajlovic.

Parma (1) Perugia (2)
Enrico Chiesa put Parma in front in the very first minute against Perugia, but they still ended up losing 2-1. Croatian Milan Rapacic side equalized in the 10th minute—the first goal to be conceded by Parma keeper Gianluigi Buffon in 460 minutes of play—and

Christian Bucchi notched the 28th winner.

Sampdoria (3) Empoli (0)
Struggling Sampdoria managed a rare victory over Empoli. Francesco Palmieri set Sampdoria on its way in the 18th minute, but Ariel Ortega, who converted a penalty last week, missed the chance to make it 2-0 when he sent another spot-kick over the bar. The Argentinian playmaker made up for his blunder with a superb solo strike in the 70th minute and Palmieri bagged his second of the day just two minutes later.

Bologna (3) Piacenza (1)
Swede Kenneth Andersson scored twice as Bologna chalked up a win over Piacenza.

Caligari (3) Bari (3)
Caligari were 3-1 up over Bari with 10 minutes to go before late goals from South African Phil Masinga and Gianluca Zambrotta made it 3-3.

Udinese (1) Venezia (1)
Udinese were held 1-1 by lowly Venezia, who must have been pleased with the point.

GERMAN 1ST DIVISION MATCH REPORTS

Wolfsburg (2) E. Frankfurt (0)
Struggling Wolfsburg scored its first win of the season with a header from libero Holger Ballwanz in the 10th minute and another goal from close range by Polish striker Andrzej Juskowiak just before time.

Bochum (2) B. M'gladbach (1)
Troubled Mönchengladbach took the lead through playmaker Kadzheiaz Pflipsen in the 11th minute, but Thomas Reis levelled for Bochum four minutes later. Fellow midfielder Sebastian Schindzielorz scored the winner for Bochum seconds into the second half.

Nuremberg (2) VfB Stuttgart (2)
Stuttgart made the best of starts with goals by striker Fredi Bobic in the 24th and 37th minutes, but Nuremberg fought back after the interval with goals from Czech striker Pavel Kuka and defender Stepan Tesarber to force a draw. Stuttgart was reduced to 10 men when defender Thomas Schneider was sent off for a second bookable offense in the dying seconds.

Hansa Rostock (2) Schalke 04 (2)
Lowly Rostock thought it was home after going 2-0 up with goals from

Croatian striker Igor Parnic and midfielder Jens Dowe in the 64th and 66th minutes, respectively. But Schalke fought back with a goal from Martin Max in the 81st minute and a second from Sascha Wolf with five minutes left.

B. Munich (4) Kaiserslautern (0)
Brazil striker Elber scored two goals and set up a further two as Bayern took revenge on Kaiserslautern, which beat them twice on its way to the title last season. Midfielder Mario Basler opened the scoring with a lob in the 10th minute and Iran striker Ali Daei made it 2-0 from close range just before the break. Both were fed by Elber, who then struck twice, in the 52nd and 56th minutes, to complete the demolition.

Hamburg SV (1) W. Bremen (1)
Hamburg SV moved in front through Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah in the 28th minute and saw its host reduced to 10 men when defender Bernhard Trares was sent off for a second bookable offense in the 71st minute. Struggling Werder Bremen equalized with a goal from Ukraine midfielder Yuri Maximov four minutes from time.

SC Freiburg (2) B. Dortmund (2)
Promoted SC Freiburg was indebted to Tunisian midfielder Zoubair Baya for its point. Baya opened the scoring after 19 minutes and netted again in the 65th minute after Dortmund had recovered to go 2-1 ahead. Dortmund scored through Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat in the 44th minute and an Alfred Nijhuis header in the 52nd.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Aston Villa (1) Leicester City (1)
Blackburn R (1) Arsenal (2)
Charlton (4) West Ham (2)
Chelsea (0) Leeds United (0)
Derby C. (1) Man. Utd (1)
Liverpool (5) Nottingham F. (1)
Sheffield Wed. (0) Everton (0)
Southampton (2) Coventry City (1)
Tottenham H. (2) Newcastle Utd (0)
Wimbledon (2) Middlesbrough (2)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION RESULTS

G. Bordeaux (2) Nancy (0)
Montpellier (1) RC Lens (0)
O. Marseille (4) Sochaux (0)
Nantes (0) Paris St Germain (0)
Rennes (1) Lorient (0)
Auxerre (1) Olympique Lyon (0)
Metz (1) Monaco (0)
Bastia (0) Strasbourg (0)
Le Havre (0) Toulouse (0)

Pan-Arab Games update

Aridah to Tunisia

■ Mr Issam Aridah, the director of the 9th Pan Arab Games director, will be heading to Tunisia next month in order to hold talks with Tunisian officials at the Ministry of Youth and the Tunisian Olympic Committee. Mr Aridah will draw on Tunisian expertise when they hosted the Mediterranean Games. Also on the agenda will be the Tunisian participation in the Pan Arab Games, to be held in Amman next year.

Jordan's Kick Boxing team comes second

■ Jordan's Kick Boxing team took the runners-up position in the first Arab Kick Boxing Championship, held in Amman this week. Jordanian fighters reached six out of the 12 finals, and amongst them won 10 medals: 3 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze medals. The team acquired 19 points during the competition, compared to 21 points collected by the Moroccan team—who came out the eventual winners of the championship with 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze medals.

Jordan's Gold medals were won by Jad Al Wahsh, Imad Abu Ramees and Ali Ahmad, and each player received a cheque of 500 dinars for their achievement.

Six countries participated in the championship, with teams coming from Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco and Jordan.

Equestrian teams head to Spain

■ Hani Bisharat, Jordan's captain of the horse-jumping team announced that they will be off to Spain next January to participate in 'Tour Sunshine' event. The event will last for five weeks, and will be a good opportunity for the team to test themselves and get into shape for the next Pan Arab Games.



A Jordanian Kick Boxer in action

The team plan to take advantage of the opportunity and buy several new horses, concentrating on the quality of their handling ability.

Budget to exceed 20 million dinars

■ The Council of Ministers is awaiting this week the full report regarding the expected budget for the next Pan Arab Games. The initial estimated figure of 11 million dinars is widely expected to be surpassed within the next few months.

A special committee was formed to look into this matter, and they concluded that more money would need to be available. If all the planned developments are to be ready in time for the official opening ceremony, The committee was headed by Mr Mohammed Khair Mamsar (Social Development Minister), Mr Issam Aridah (Games Director), and Mr Fakher Al Bulbesi (Head of the Finance Committee).

The committee found that the new expected budget will exceed 20 million dinars, due the higher expected cost of the new multi sports hall, which is costing 7 million dinars, and the ever increasing costs of preparing the national teams for the games.

The committee will present their report to the Mr Sata'an Al Hasan, the Minister of Youth, this week.

Abu Othman and Dowerij head for Bangkok

■ The Jordanian Cycling Federation named Mohammed Abu Othman and Yahya Dowerij as their team to represent the Kingdom in the next Asian Games cycling competition, due to be held in Bangkok in December. It is hoped that the cyclists will benefit from the international racing standard of the competition, especially from the Asian stars who have gained a reputation in this sport.



David Ginola of Tottenham Hotspur takes strike on goal

OCTOBER 1998

A special section offering
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global issues prepared for
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A new twist on 'greening' corporate accounts

The exploitation of its biowealth seems patently unjust to the South

► There's a new global currency, one denominated in DNA and RNA. Most of this genetic wealth lies in the developing world; the keys that unlock it, however, are in Western hands. Can a world capable of mapping a gene now map out an equitable division of this biowealth?

By Hardin Tibbs

COMMERCIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY'S recent, rapid expansion presents a fresh set of dilemmas for developing countries that want to industrialize, but want to do it in a way that does not surrender their own culture and values to the North. With as much as 30 million acres of genetically engineered crops planted in 1997—10 times more than in 1995—and double that amount projected for this year, there is a real urgency to these dilemmas.

For developing nations, the main issues are so-called biopiracy and biocolonialism by transnational corporations (TNCs).

Biopiracy arises from the ability to sequence genomes quickly and cost-effectively, coupled with the decision in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries to grant patents on life forms. For legal purposes, the patents are based on DNA sequences that many southern nations do not have the resources and expertise to identify.

Following the logic of patent law and industrial-country concepts of intellectual property, Northern companies and biotechnology researchers have registered patents on plants that have been indigenous food staples or traditional medicines for millennia. These have included neem tree extract, basmati rice, chickpeas and pepper extract, sparking strong protests in countries such as India.

Patent law requires novelty and a unique technical specification. Bioresearchers in developed countries argue that they are the first to be able to specify biological characteristics in this way and it is appropriate they be awarded the patents. This overlooks the common sense objection that the plants existed long before the researchers, and if anyone should have property rights it is the communities that were the traditional discoverers and users. In these cases patent law appears to be justifying theft, an injustice made worse if biotechnology companies then attempt to exact a royalty from traditional users.

The InBio way

The relationship between biotechnology companies and traditional users does not have to be based on piracy. Shaman Pharmaceuticals in San Francisco employs ethnobotanists to work in tropical rainforest areas with indigenous shamans and keepers of medical and herbal lore, to identify plants with possible pharmaceutical value. In exchange, the equivalent of a royalty is paid in a way that ensures the entire community benefits. Similarly, in Costa Rica the government is contracting with foreign pharmaceutical companies through InBio, an organization that controls and markets the genetic resources of Costa Rica's forests.

Biocolonialism, the other big concern of developing nations, hinges on an overly linear and narrowly-focused approach to the creation of commercial products based on biotechnology. As with the earlier era of colonial exploitation, many of the resources are in Southern—and particularly tropical—countries with high and largely unexplored biodiversity, while most of the financial capital and know-how is in the North.

Once biological intellectual property rights are established by transnational firms, their next step is to maximize economic gain. This means creating marketable products and devising legal agreements that confer maximum advantage to the controlling corporations. This logic may seem justifiable in the US or Europe, but in the South it translates into social injustice.

The central problem is the fact most biotechnology products are being developed as if they were ordinary industrial goods such as nails or paper. Success in industrial production involved maximizing one factor or innovation, scaling it up for production and suppressing all variables—in the case of nails, these might be length and composition of the metal used to make them. This worked because industrial products were inert additions to the world, mostly seen as improvements. Applying this approach in biology is problematic.

Treating plants and animals as factories for a single production factor ignores the reality that organisms are essentially sophisticated systems whose greatest asset is adaptability—Darwin's natural selection—that allows them to exist in environments composed of other adaptive organisms. This means that the single factor approach compromises the health and well-being of these organisms by making them operate "unnaturally." It also compromises the productive synergies with multiple interacting organisms that most human social systems are founded on.

These problems are not new. They are central to the difficulties faced by intensive farming practices, and account for the adverse effects of the Green Revolution of the 1970s which increased income disparities and drove many small farmers off the land. By building uncritically on the same thinking, without an awareness of the shortcomings of these systems, biotechnology threatens to make matters worse.

In the real world, if biological systems are changed there is an ecological and social impact which can undermine any potential gain in efficiency.

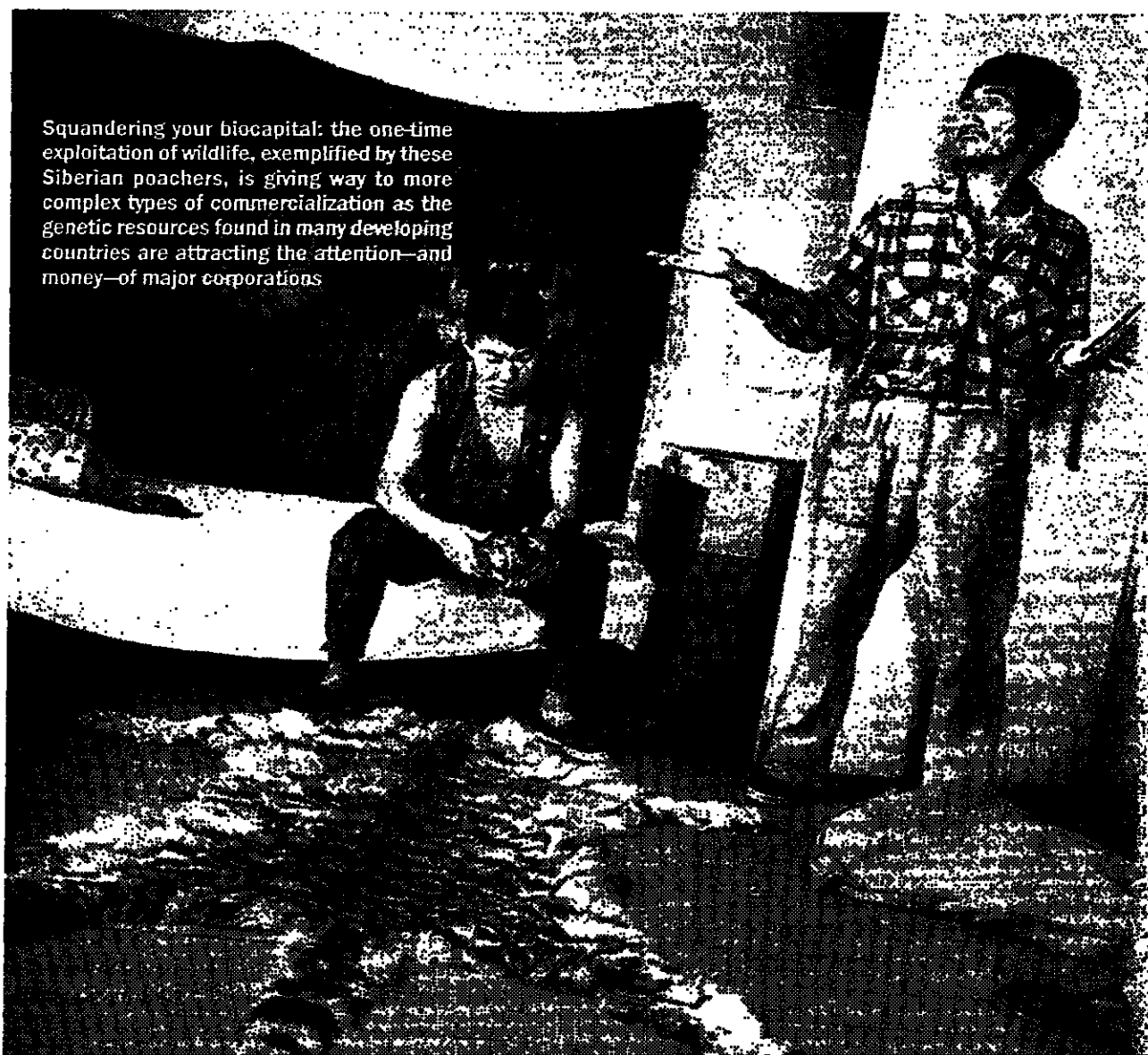
What's the difference?

This partial view can also be seen in the attitude of agribusiness TNC Monsanto in regard to labeling genetically engineered food. The company uses a reductionist analysis to argue that labeling is inappropriate. They say that DNA sequences are just as natural when they are transferred to another organism as they were in the original organism. For this reason, it is not only unnecessary to label food as genetically engineered, but misleading, as it implies a distinction that has no validity in science.

This reasoning, however, completely disregards the right of consumers and citizens to be informed and to exercise choice about what they buy and eat, even if these choices are based on fear, caution, religion, or plain irrationality. These rights are supposed to be an essential part of democracy. If Monsanto wants to develop genuinely systemic and successful biotechnology strategies—not to mention if it wants to be trusted—it will need to respect democratic values and recognize the crucial social dimension of sustainability.

The bottom line is that biotechnology companies cannot succeed simply by claiming to respond to global needs without attempting to understand the global contexts where these needs exist, and learning to play an equitable role. Similarly, countries and communities around the world would be well advised to understand the rationale being applied by the TNCs and exploit it to protect their own rights. Meeting the world's needs by means of this new and undoubtedly useful technology, while allowing Southern nations to benefit fairly from their biodiversity, will require much more flexible thinking on both sides, combined with a willingness to learn from apparently alien perspectives. ☉

HARDIN TIBBS IS CEO OF SYNTHESIS STRATEGIC CONSULTING, BASED IN CANNERRA, AUSTRALIA. HE CAN BE CONTACTED AT HTIBBS@WELL.COM.



Squandering your biocapital: the one-time exploitation of wildlife, exemplified by these Siberian poachers, is giving way to more complex types of commercialization as the genetic resources found in many developing countries are attracting the attention—and money—of major corporations

A vast historical contribution counts for little

West reaps Ethiopia's genetic harvest

By Laeke Mariam Demisse

FROM ETHIOPIA'S PERSPECTIVE, the world is greatly indebted to its genetic diversity. Without the varieties of such staple crops as barley, teff, chick peas and sorghum found in Ethiopia, many of the advances in agriculture—especially during the so-called Green Revolution—would not have been possible.

Instead of compensation and respect, however, Ethiopians today are shocked to be getting bills from foreign companies that have "patented" native species and now demand payment for their use.

Because of Ethiopia's internal troubles, the country's response to this commercialization of its native species has been slow and, at worst, self-destructive—the government recently shut down the offices of a pioneering non-governmental organization (NGO) that was trying to preserve crop species for use by Ethiopian farmers.

According to renowned Ethiopian geneticist Melaku Werede, "Ethiopia is recognized as one of the world's most important centers of crop genetic diversity. It is often referred to as

major gene center. Much of this diversity is found in small fields belonging to peasants who, aided by nature, have played—and continue to play—a central role in the creation, maintenance and use of this invaluable resource."

Melaku, a pioneer in the preservation of genetic resources in their natural habitat (rather than in laboratories or storage facilities), is of the opinion that: "The genetic diversity found in Ethiopian land races has been used worldwide as a source in developing new crop varieties and solving stresses representing acute yield constraining problems."

As a government employee, Melaku founded the Ethiopian Gene Bank, now known as the Bio-diversity Centre. Upon retiring, he set up an NGO known as "Seeds Of Survival" Ethiopia (SOS/E). It is this organization the government recently clamped down on.

Before the closure, SOS/E had worked to establish a network of in-farm sites and conservation plots across a wide range of environments to provide useful germplasm on a continuous basis. The alternative approach, collecting genes and preserving them in a "gene-bank" or laboratory has, according to many scientists, some disadvantages. Among them: the genes stop evolving, some die and they tend to be kept in small quantities.

Ironically, SOS/E had established a working relationship with its government counterpart. Spurred on by the famine of the mid-1980s, which seriously threatened Ethiopia's biological resources, Plant Genetic Resource Centre Ethiopia and

SOS/E devised a plant genetic resource strategy that linked on-farm conservation and crop improvement by rural communities with government support services.

While farmers fight at the local level to hang on to their genetic resources, Ethiopians are also learning—often through error—how to deal with the sudden international interest in life-forms they have long taken for granted: were theirs.

One story that keeps making the rounds in Addis Ababa concerns an alleged double-cross of Ethiopian researchers by the University of Toledo in the US. According to Dr. Legesse Wolde-Yohannes of Addis Ababa University, the University of Toledo applied for patent that covers work he and a late colleague were responsible for. By doing so, it made sure that over 70 percent of any royalties earned in the world's richest market stay in American hands.

As reported by the Canada-based Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) in March 1994, a toxin isolated by the late Dr. Akilu Lemma from the African soapberry plant—commonly known as Endod—turns out to kill the zebra mussel, a newcomer to the American Great Lakes that is expected to cause US\$5 billion worth of damage by 2000.

In 1990, while Lemma was at the University of Toledo to receive an honorary degree, he and an American scientist successfully tested the biodegradable toxin on zebra mussels. This led to the signing of an agreement between the University of Addis Ababa, the University of Toledo and Lemma. Then, a few months later, the University of Toledo applied for—and was granted—two patents on the use of the toxin to control zebra mussels. Any royalties on a commercial product will be split between the university (50 percent), two American

► GENETIC HARVEST NEXT PAGE

Terminating good will: genetically engineered seeds that germinate only once, requiring farmers to buy fresh seeds every year, has outraged many developing nations. The promise of high yields and pest-resistance do not, from their perspective, compensate for the dependency on Western agribusiness they foresee for farmers who abandon traditional crop varieties in favor of these "Terminator" seeds. Firms producing these seeds say they are simply protecting their considerable investment.

09.10.1998

Western multinationals not the only villains in the scramble to exploit genetic resources

Tribe find that biopiracy begins at home

By J. John and Sindhu Menon

WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), based in the southern Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala state, won the prestigious

United Nations Borlaug Award this year,

He was praised for going by the rule book in harnessing plants for medicinal use.

But a tribal group from the state is not so sure. They say the institute—a Kerala government body—is cheating them of profits made from the industrial production of a medicinal plant grown by the tribe. And biodiversity campaigners say the UN got it wrong for commending the institute for its adherence to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which seeks to ensure that profits from the commercial use of the world's biological wealth is shared equitably, including by those who have nurtured and developed knowledge about plants for centuries.

The row centers around what TBGRI calls its "accidental discovery" of a plant with supposedly extraordinary therapeutic properties in the Western Ghats, a hilly, biologically-rich part of southwestern India. Known as Arogyappacha, the plant has been grown and used for generations by members of an impoverished local tribe called Kani.

According to the institute, a team of Indian ethno-biologists led by TBGRI director Palupu Pushpangadan was trekking through the Western Ghats to survey the tribe in December 1987 when the scientists complained of tiredness. But two Kani guides to the expedition, who had been munching some "small blackish fruits," were found to be energetic and agile. The curious scientists followed suit and "felt a sudden flush of energy and strength."

For the next seven years, the institute subjected the plant to a battery of scientific tests before coming up with a health tonic called Jeevani, an anti-stress, anti-fatigue, appetite-promoting cocktail of four herbs, in which the major ingredient is Arogyappacha.

In 1994, TBGRI transferred the process-technology of Jeevani for commercial production to the Coimbatore Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (CAP), a market leader in indigenous Ayurvedic drugs. According to CAP's chief of Product Development G.G. Gangadharan, the terms of the transfer obliges TBGRI to share with Kanis half of the know-how fees of one million rupees (about US\$25,000) and half the 2 percent royalty on future sales of the drug.

TBGRI worked out an ambitious plan to commercially cultivate some 2,000 acres of Arogyappacha. Accord-

ing to their calculations, an acre should yield an income of about \$2,500 over two years. The leaves can be plucked thrice a year. The institute says this money will go to 2,500 Kani families who are eventually to cultivate and supply the plants to CAP at a price agreed with TBGRI. "Our decision to share the benefit is a unique attempt to recognize the Intellectual Property Rights of trib-

als," said Dr Rajasekharan, head of TBGRI's Ethno-medicine Department.

But the Kanis tell a different tale. "There are about 300 people working with TBGRI, but no Kani has been appointed," says Shaji Kani of Vithura village.

Appukkuttan Kani, the elected chief of the village local government, says, "The Botanical Garden uses our people to collect plants and herbs. They

are given only daily wages of 30 rupees, and are never compensated for the value of the plants and herbs. Moreover, we do not know what they do with the plants and herbs," he adds.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the wrangle has thrown up important questions on commercial exploitation of plants. Patenting products and processes is a key instrument by which Western multinational companies exploit the resources and economies of developing countries. But as the Kanis' complaints show, this so-called 'biopiracy' can happen within developing nations too.

In an interview after receiving the Borlaug award, Pushpangadan explained the rationale of the TBGRI model: "Biological diversity is the sovereign right of a nation. It cannot be acquired without the prior informed consent of those who possess the knowledge."

Whether this right should also extend

to communities within nations is currently a hotly-debated issue. Campaigners say there is an urgent need for developing countries to enact patent laws that would recognize the Intellectual Property Rights of indigenous communities. Biodiversity campaigner Suman Sahay feels that TBGRI, by taking out a patent for Jeevani, "has effectively challenged the principle of Common Heritage of Mankind, which considers all genetic resources the property of everybody, with no particular ownership."

To top it, the Kanis complain, TBGRI has not parted with any of the cash it has been given by CAP. Instead, it has set up a Kani Tribal Trust of its own, with the two guides as its president and secretary, to distribute the money. ©

J. JOHN AND SINDHU MENON WRITE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES FROM KERALA IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

BIO RICH, CASH POOR?

With the exception of the US, most of the countries with the greatest variety of plant species do not have comparable financial resources. This opens the door for Western companies, but cooperation frequently stumbles over the issue of "fair" shares

Country	Number of known plant species	Per capita GDP (in US\$)
USA	31,220	21,875
COLOMBIA	51,220	5,207
CHINA	30,000	2,500
MEXICO	26,071	7,584
INDONESIA	13,000	1,200
VENEZUELA	21,073	5,120
INDIA	19,342	4,826
ECUADOR	19,342	1,200
INDIA	18,000	1,200
THAILAND	12,625	7,584
SWITZERLAND	3,030	24,807
MADAGASCAR	9,505	504
SAUDI ARABIA	2,023	8,500
NETHERLANDS	1,715	21,545
NETHERLANDS	1,715	21,545
KUWAIT	262	21,875

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incredibly
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population
will

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GENETIC HARVEST

Continued from previous page

scientists and Lemma's estate.

Stories such as this one are rife. In an effort to safeguard the continent's bio-wealth, "Ethiopia recently drafted environmental legislation recently that was accepted by the Organisation of Africa Unity member countries. When the legislation is endorsed it will be instrumental in protecting Africa's biological resources," says Emiru Tamirat, an Ethiopian environmental lawyer.

Such local and regional solutions are important because international ones have done little to stop Northern exploitation of Southern resources. The US has yet to ratify the 1992 Biological Diversity Convention—signed by 156 other nations—and RAFI has chronicled several instances of biopiracy at the microbial level.

According to RAFI, US farmers already earn \$150 million annually by growing varieties of barley developed from Ethiopian strains. Yet nobody in Ethiopia is sending them a bill. ©

LAKE MARIAM DEMESSIE WRITES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES FROM ADDIS ABABA.

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THE STAR'S WORK

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Computer & IT companies!

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The Zip, SuperDisk, HiFD and others attack the floppy:

3.5" floppies may disappear soon

THE FLOPPY disk is probably
the oldest legacy of PC computing
which still survives to this
day.

The problem is that the
floppy drive no longer does the
job. Today, even the smallest
graphic, sound or data file may
not fit into a floppy diskette.

1.44 MB is not enough for
anything, anymore! We need
bigger floppy storage.

This has created much space
for a whole market of mass
storage media. As the era of
tape drives looks like it is coming
to a final close, magnetic
storage media based on optical
technologies have become
cheaper, lighter and very
reliable.

Called 'floppy-replacements',
there are a number of drives
that are out to get the good old
floppy and throw it out of the
computing world.

Already, major manufacturers
of PCs offer users the option to
purchase a PC with a new,
super drive of some sort which
can also read their old floppies,
in addition to storing more than
100MB on certain disks!

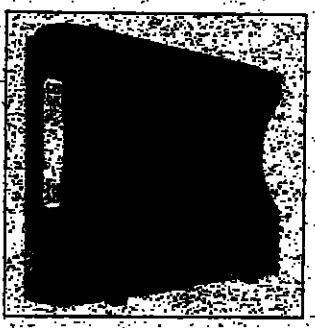
It makes you wonder why
this never happened before. The
reason is that manufacturers
never came together, to agree to
a unifying standard. The result
has been a non-developed disk
drive, which now lags terribly
behind the rest of the PC unit it
is sitting in!

Here is a run down of some
of these storage gadgets, that
may replace the floppy drive.
International prices are quoted
here.

You can add around 30% to
get a rough estimate for the
price in Jordan.

The Zip Disk: The first mass
storage disk drive to emerge. It
is priced at \$150, and uses disks
that can store 100MB RAM.

The serious barrier that
prevents it from taking off is that it
does not provide compatibility
with 1.44MB floppies.



Also, Iomega, the makers of
the Zip drive, never sought to
make it a standard. They did
not license the technology for
other manufacturers. However,
the Zip drive is the top seller,
with over 12 million units
worldwide.

Next, there is the Superdrive,
which looks like the most possible
future leader. It is a very
impressive piece of hardware.

Capable of storing 120MB
per disk, this stunning unit can
also read normal 1.44 MB
disks.

It was co-produced by industry
leaders like Compaq, with
their PC know-how, Mitsubishi,
a leader in consumer electronics,
and Imation, an innovative
technical design company.

Already, major PC manufacturers
including Compaq, Gateway
and Hewlett-Packard all

offer the SuperDisk along with
their systems, upon demand of
course.

It is also relatively cheap,
costing around \$100, on the
international market.

Coming a few weeks is the
SuperDisk challenger, from the
giant electronics company
Sony.

The high Density Floppy
Disk (HiFD) is a technical work
of art, also capable of handling
1.44MB disks.

It can store a staggering
200MB per disk. So, that makes
it the top contender, technically.

However, it will suffer from
its price which is around \$200.
That is double the SuperDisk
and a third more expensive than
the Zip Disk!

Other products include drives
from small companies like
Caleb Technology and Swan
Instruments, both of whom
offer disk storage of up to
130MB and backward compati-
bility. But, without industry
backing, or a partnership with a
giant, these companies and their
products don't look to
promising.

Who will lead remains to be
seen; but for now, for us users,
there seems to be a light at the end
of the tunnel.

We will have mass storage
disks, that are backward compati-
ble with our huge collections
of 1.44MB diskettes.

The normal floppy will be
missed. But, in a way, it will
live on in the design of its off-
spring, which can store hun-
dreds of megabytes, but still
remain true to its humble
1.44MBs.

Demonstrating its commitment to the region, launching new
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"LEO Systems, Inc. has
been increasingly developing a
strong foothold in the Middle
Eastern market place with the
opening of the LEO ME
branch office earlier this year,
followed up by the recent
release of LEO's "Free Your
Mind" TV advertising cam-
paign" said Sankar P. Kiruba,
Marketing manager LEO Systems
ME.

"As a first step, LEO ME
branch office has successfully

chosen the right partners in the
GCC region," said Hassan
Ashi, General Manager LEO
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ducted during GITEX. Oracle
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recruitment area for visitors
interested in employment

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more.

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Synergy and Vision Quest.

ORACLE

News update

Microsoft To Show SQL Server 7.0

Microsoft Gulf is to preview
its key SQL Server 7.0 database
at GITEX '98 in Dubai.

SQL Server 7.0 is a vital
product for corporate users of
database technologies and intro-
duces important new capabili-
ties which see it outperforming
all competitive products.

Microsoft has itself moved
its entire mission-critical busi-
ness system onto the SQL 7.0
platform, taking the entire
25,000 person, multi-billion
dollar company to SQL 7.0

Beta 3.0 on a global basis.

Ford/Suzuki dealer in Jordan launches Web site

Computer Networking Ser-
vices (CNS), have developed
the web site for the Suzuki/
Ford dealer in Jordan, the Com-
mercial & Industrial Co.

The site is among the pio-
neering attempts for Internet
marketing by car dealers in the
country. The idea is to deliver
full information to customers,
over the Internet and to provide
another channel for exchange of
views and comments.

To check out the site, go to
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Pop Music

Quantity before quality

By Rasheed Al Roussan

POPCORN, popeye and pop music have many things in common: fame. Popcorn is sold everywhere—in cinema halls, amusement parks etc. Popeye is one of the most famous cartoon characters known for his strength and bravery, and pop music is no exception. It is famous, popular and easy to grasp in almost every record store.

Pop music today has never been the same since the days of Mozart and Beethoven. Mozart's music for instance was popular all over Europe. Nowadays, Madonna is enjoying the privilege of being one of the most famous artists in the world, along with others like Michael Jackson, Maria Carey etc.

However, back in the old days of Uncle Mozart, music had a standard level of form and content.

The quality of the music made people like Chopin or Bach famous. It is what you portray as an artist and not how much work you can produce. If we consider the word "pop" in our 20th century diction, we would find a rapid change. People like Michael Jackson or Madonna aren't popular for their music only, despite the fact that some of their records are worldwide hits. There is something more to it than guitar distortions and drums banging.

As an artist you have to sell yourself first before you even think of talking about your album. At the beginning, Madonna's looks were more important than her voice. After a series of sexy appearances and porno films, she finally made it to the top!

Her album *True Blue* was a hell of a record, which blasted her off to fame. On the other hand her *Erotica* album was a music failure, but it sold out.

After a dozen hits and singles, Madonna has seen the ray of light. Her music is transforming into spiritual times and lyrics, which really reminds us of the Beatles back in the seventies, where they were withdrawn to the magic of the Indian mystique.

Michael Jackson has been through hell. He began with his first solo LP *Off The Wall* back in the early eighties followed by the Guinness world record, *Thriller* in 1983. Today, the guy is claimed to be the king of rock. His fans can't resist his mambo jambo concerts, along



Michael Jackson

with his dancing mastery. The music comes at the end though. Pop artists like Jackson and Madonna are selling their music through the propaganda of their image—what they wear, where they go, and how many houses they own.

Nevertheless, popular doesn't always mean quality. Spice Girls are anything but talented

singers, despite the fact that they are famous. Ironically enough, your voice doesn't count when it comes to mini skirts and seductive makeup. It all comes in one commercial package: the video clip, the sexy moves and the song itself. Once you are convinced with this image, you would buy the tape.

Quality is going down the drain, and some

are not bothered by it. It is like a small snack, where you enjoy the taste of the food for a while, and then it falls into your stomach where it is digested. Moreover, the "music snack" is entering every house through the magic of satellite waves, like a load of bullets shot to your eyes and ears. If the music doesn't appeal to you, I am sure other elements will.

'Soldier' takes no prisoners

By Kevin Thomas

HOLLYWOOD—'Soldier,' a potent comic-book-style action-adventure fantasy, civilizes a not-too-distant intergalactic future when warriors will be selected at birth by the government and trained to become human fighting machines.

Over the years, Keanu Reeves' Todd has become the best of these warriors, a rugged fighter with a scar on the right side of his face and his name, blood type and a chevron tattooed on his left cheek.

His folksy captain (Gary Busey) respects him and his fellow warriors, but along comes Jason Isaacs' Colonel Mekrum, one of those lethal idiots who mysteriously rises to positions of power. The colonel announces that Todd and his ilk have been rendered obsolete by a younger breed of warrior that has been 'enhanced' via DNA and who knows what else.

Busey's Churchill proposes a contest between Todd and one of the new 'models,' Jason Scott Lee's Caine 607, who winds up losing the sight in his right eye.

Undeterred, the colonel orders Todd and the other veterans scooped up in an intergalactic Dumpster, deposited on a garbage dump planet. Only Todd survives being crushed to death amid a load of metal debris.

Near the dumping site is a small colony of people stranded since their plane crashed some years before. Once accepting that they weren't going to be rescued, these individuals set about building a community based on peace and harmony, fashioning a village created from what they could scavenge from the dumps. They've been able to grow enough vegetables to feed themselves, although their shanty-town Garden of Eden is menaced from time to time by rather overly symbolic and highly toxic green snakes.

But can a man trained from birth to be a killing machine fit into human society, especially one as civilized as this one? What's more, you know very well we haven't seen the last of the evil Colonel of Caine 607.

In a twist of fate and special effects, 'Soldier' is suitably imaginative and spectacular. It often artificial-looking, Russell has no more than five words to say during the film's first hour and not much after that, but he has the presence, depth of character and expressiveness, along with the physicality, to carry 'Soldier.'

Directed with vigor and finesse by Paul Anderson, 'Soldier' was written by 'Blade Runner' and 'Unforgiven's' greatly gifted David Webb Peoples.

'Soldier' isn't remotely as complex as either of those two landmark films, but it is a decent job on the part of Peoples. 'Soldier' is the kind of picture described as being aimed at young men, but it may have an unexpected resonance for older viewers who know only too well that obsolescence is something that can happen to human beings and not just to machines.

It's a shame, considering to be sent home by a sleek, violent, and lethal machine with the notion that experience can still count for more than mere youth.

Brains in Toyland

Rocket scientists offer sharp ideas

By Renee Tawa

PASADENA, California—Listen, the rocket scientists told the toy makers, to what's going up into the big sandbox we call space: A spacecraft packed with aerogel—a kind of frozen smoke—to capture stardust from the heart of a comet dubbed Wild 2.

An orbiter and probe bound for Saturn to peer at the planet's Hula Hoopish rings. A dragonfly-shaped spacecraft, Deep Space 1, headed for a rendezvous with an asteroid. Now, wouldn't they make great toys?

Forget the alien-zapping Tasers, the 'Beam me up, Scotty' activators and the time-traveling hatches. US space experts at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, are pushing toys that look and move like NASA spacecraft, and they promise that JPL scientists and engineers who work

on the actual missions will provide blueprints, computer models and advice—the way they did for Mattel Inc.'s toy version of the Mars Pathfinder rover and lander in 1997.

In a daylong workshop earlier this month, 'Playing Among the Planets '98,' the lab's experts pitched their latest space missions to toy makers, inventors and filmmakers.

Through JPL's partnership and licensing programs, businesses will get JPL expertise along with exclusive rights to the names and ideas of its space missions. Even the chief mission engineer for Deep Space 1 took the time to woo the industry crowd with news of the spacecraft, which is scheduled to launch 25 October ('propelled by xenon ions,' a handout for the spacecraft explains). The workshop drew 40 executives from the toy and entertainment industries, including a filmmaker from London and a tombstone-commemorative maker from Kentucky. For Seattle toy executive Mario Di Pasquale, the wheels started turning as soon he walked in the door.

'I've already seen about two or three things I want to do,' Di Pasquale said. The draw? 'It's real,' he said. 'Fantasy's great, but it's more important to show reality.'

The lab's link with the toy industry began last year, with Mattel's Hot Wheels JPL Sojourner Mars Rover Action Pack. The \$5 toy was so popular that even JPL's Mars Program manager had to buy a set off a scalper. (Mattel will not release sales figures, and JPL will not disclose its share of the profits.)

The success of the Pathfinder toy prompted JPL officials to throw open its doors to other toy makers, said Joan C. Horvath, the lab's businesses alliances manager.

'Some people think JPL shouldn't be associated with toys—that it undoes our serious rocket image, you know,' Horvath said. Her voice dropped to a mock ponderous tone. 'Some people still think it's trivializing science.'

But with cutbacks in the space program, the partnership agreements are good business and public relations, JPL offi-



Mars Pathfinder lead engineer, Howard Eisen, helped Mattel designers with the toy version of the mission's spacecraft.

cialists said, and a way for them to share space technology with US industry.

More than 140 companies pay the lab consulting fees, usually ranging from \$40,000 to \$50,000 each. Through the program, which brings in about \$4 million annually, lab scientists and engineers work on outside projects such as the 'Babylon 5' TV show and the trans-Alaska pipeline.

The consulting work takes up a fraction of JPL staff time—less than 1 percent, officials said. On the Mars Pathfinder toy, for instance, Mattel designers consulted with JPL engineers once every four to six weeks.

So far, JPL is the only one of NASA's 10 centers that grants toy licenses. Besides its agreement with Mattel, JPL has announced only one other toy licensing agreement, with Uncle Milton Industries Inc.,

although others are in the works. Uncle Milton, maker of the Ant Farm, is producing a line of Mars toys that will include a robotic arm based on the one used by the Mars Pathfinder rover.

Now on the drawing board is a Mattel toy replica of the Galileo spacecraft, which is orbiting Jupiter. Mattel's designers recently visited Galileo's desert tracking station to learn about the spacecraft's orbit. JPL insists on realism to the point that the toy will incorporate Galileo's famously stuck antenna. The Mars Pathfinder toy is so realistic that the mission's lead engineer, Howard Eisen, pulls it out of his pocket when he wants to point out a feature on the lander, for instance, to a scientist.

Eisen, 30, was assigned to help Mattel's designers, who visited JPL's spacecraft assembly clean room to watch the

mission team work on the real thing.

'Those guys are very much like us,' Eisen said. 'They get to dream up the next new superhero. We get to dream up the next new crazy mission to Mars.'

The toy, he said, is more real than he could have imagined. Count the solar panels atop the toy rover—the real robot's solar panels have the same number and configuration. Turn the toy upside-down—details of wiring and diodes are molded on in the right spots. Check out the cleats on the toy wheels—the number and texture mimic the Mars rover's.

'When I give one of these to my grandkids,' Eisen said, 'I get to show them this is what the rover really looked like.'

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Miss Lebanon 1998, Clemencia Ashgar, displays winner's smile. The 18-year-old beauty queen is in her second year of university, where she is studying Sociology and PR.



Actor John Travolta (R) poses with Michael Kutza, creative director and founder of the Chicago Film Festival, as he accepts a lifetime achievement award at the 34th Chicago International Film Festival, October 24. Travolta's appearance culminated the fifteenth day of the festival which features over 100 films from more than 30 countries.

Reuters